

# God's Blueprint for the Family



## The Intelligent Divine Design

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June 2011 Series  
*Christ F Free Pulpit Ministry*

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# Jesus Christ

Our Highest Calling

Our Greatest Purpose

Our Soul's Source and Joy

And Our All-Consuming Passion

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## "The Divine Design"

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June 5, 2011

Eph. 5:22-33

To nourish children and raise them against odds is in any time, any place, more valuable than to fix bolts in cars or design nuclear weapons.

- Marilyn French

Any problem, big or small, within a family, always seems to start with ad communication. Someone isn't listening.

- Emma Thompson

"Don't marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without."

-Dr. James C. Dobson

"Don't throw away your friendship with your teenager over behavior that has no great moral significance. There will be plenty of real issues that require you to stand like a rock. Save your big guns for those crucial confrontations."

-Dr. James C. Dobson

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Many families are in need or Biblical remodeling.

Describe the state of the church and I can tell you the state of the families in the church.

## **Remodeling**

At our house, we are remodeling our basement. Our boys all share one bedroom and at 14, they are needing more privacy. We are moving two bedrooms downstairs and are attempting to turn our basement into livable space. It's a learning experience for all of us and its taking a lot of work and even more patience.

It seems the American family is in need of remodeling.

More families – Christian families have absentee Fathers. More families with Father's present, the Father's are passive Fathers.

In the Christian family today, more men are frustrated, more women are angry, more children are disconnected from traditional family as we know it and also from the church. Many reasons for this.

But more families are two income families, less families are spending more time together. There are just as many divorces in Christian families as in non-Christian families. Just as many teenager's leaving the church as there are in the church. There is more anger in our homes today – there is more unforgiveness in our families today – there are more broken families in our society today - there is more desperate need for Jesus Christ to be LORD over the family today than ever.

It is no surprise to hear that the American family is in need of remodeling – remodeling to get our families up to code – God's code. We need to do what it takes to get our families up to code of God's blueprint for the family, with Jesus Christ is LORD of the family.

## Definition of family

Consider a basic 21<sup>st</sup> century cultural definition, of family.

- a. a basic social unit consisting of parents and their children, considered as a group, whether dwelling together or not: *the traditional family*.
- b. a social unit consisting of one or more adults together with the children they care for: *a single-parent family; extended family*.

A Christian may define family from a Christian perspective. A non-Christian may define family from a non-Christian perspective.

Even a gay/lesbian couple could possibly be considered a family unit, though not a Biblical family.



## Consider God's Blueprint for Family Relationships

Yes, God does have a design and a purpose for the family.

**Ephesians 5:22-33** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (24) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by



the washing of water with the word, (27) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (28) In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (29) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, (30) because we are members of his body. (31) "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (32) This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (33) However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**Eph 6:1-4** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), (3) "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." (4) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

## **God has a plan for the family design**

The Biblical family is to be an example of God's relationship with His people and Christ's relationship with the church.

## **God and His people**

**Isaiah 62:4-5** You shall no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall your land any more be termed Desolate: but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah: for the LORD delights in you, and you land shall be married. (5) For as a young man marries and virgin, so shall your sons marry you: and as the

bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall God rejoice over you.

## **Christ and the church**

**Eph. 5:32** This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

The growing Biblical family is to be an example of the growing church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Growing in maturity, growing in numbers, but also growing in loving consideration for one another.

Ephesians is not about chores around the house, but relational dynamics within the family.

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*Remember this: Your family will not be perfect,  
because the individuals who make it up are  
imperfect – including you.*

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## **God has a plan for each person in the family**

God's plan for the family is much like that of a team. When one player wins the whole team wins. If the team wins, then everyone on the team wins. Victory depends on each person on the team and each member of the family functioning as God intended and contributing to the family as God has gifted each of them.

## **The Intelligent Divine Design God has given us.**

*God has designed an all important component  
into His all Intelligent Design – that is absolute  
**DEPENDENCE!***



**Deut. 6:1-9** Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: (2) That upi might fear the LORD your God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged. (3) Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with you, and that you may increase mightily, as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. (4) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: (5) And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. (6) And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart: (7) And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. (8) And you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as **frontlets** between your eyes. (9) And you shall write them upon the posts of your house, and on your gates.

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*God's intelligent Divine design was for every person to be dependent upon Him and His Word.*

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“**Frontlets**” (v8) are small boxes with portions of holy Scripture in them, and strapped on one's forehead. This became a literal practice of the Jewish people.





Today, we might consider the intent that God had in being careful to learn God's holy word and teaching them to our children and to their children's children, and as a result, passing our faith along to the following generations. Perhaps it was intended to look more like this.

Each member of the family is individually dependent upon God and must have their own personal faith relationship with Him. God's Divine Design is for generational family training to know and experience God.

**Deu 4:9** Only take heed to yourself, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life: but teach them to your sons, and your sons' sons;

**Deut. 6:2** "...to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, you, and you son, and your son's son,..."

**Deut. 6:7** – "...teach them diligently unto your children..."

### **What does God expect of your family?**

God expects us to be teaching and training in Truth and faith formation.

Some parents may say: "I'm going to let our children learn and decide for themselves whether they will be a Christian or some other religion." Would you let your children play with

poisonous snakes so they could decide whether or not its dangerous to play with vipers?

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*“...**teach** them diligently unto your children...”*

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Perhaps a parent may think: “I don’t have the knowledge of the Bible or time in my day to teach my children about faith – I’ll just let the local church do that”

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*“...teach them diligently unto **your** children...”*

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It is the family’s responsibility **first** to teach about faith. It is the church’s responsibility to do what families are failing to do at home.

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*“...teach them **diligently** unto your children...”*

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***That’s God’s command and expectation for the family!***

There are some Christians who believe Churches should not have youth groups of any kind. “That should be the families job.”

We are committed to both! It should not be the church’s place to be the primary source of biblical teaching and faith formation for your children. It is the family’s primary responsibility to do that.

However, the sad fact is that too many families don’t teach their children Gods truth for faith formation. The sad fact is that too many families are not Christian families, but **do** allow their children and their youth to come to our KidsKlubs or our Youth Groups, therefore we gladly teach and train in truth and faith formation in all our discovery and discipleship groups.

And even if families **are** performing their God given responsibilities of teaching their children biblical truth, we will have KidsKlub and ACTION Youth group so young people can meet with other young people to praise God, study and discuss God's word, encourage one another on their age and maturity level and to better reach out to the children and youth of our community.

**Every family member's knowledge of Truth and faith formation will affect their overall family life relationships.**

The father away any one family member remains from God, the less the Lordship of Jesus Christ will be exercised and experienced in that family life relationship.

Conversely, the closer each family member grows to God, the more the Lordship of Jesus Christ will be exercised and evidenced in that overall family life relationship.

Each person dependent upon God personally. Each person growing closer to God personally. Each family growing closer to God together. That's Gods Intelligent Divine Design for the Family



## **Practical Outworking of God's Blueprint and Intelligent Divine Design for the family**

God wants the family to be a message to the world that humanity is totally dependent upon Him and that His grace is sufficient in every situation.

**Gods commands have a purpose for the family:**

**That it will go well with you**

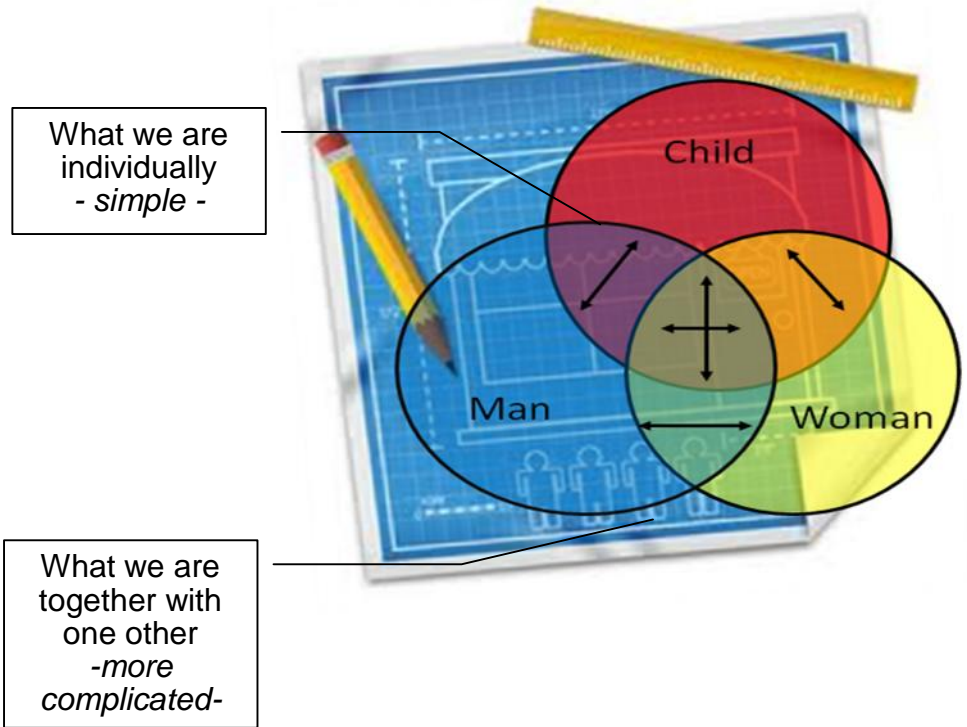
The Golden Rule: Treat others as you want to be treated.

Also: Don't treat others as they have treated you, if you have been treated badly. In other words don't retaliate or get revenge

**Php 2:3-5** Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

**We cannot be a family and not affect one another, either positively or negatively.**

Our lives and our actions affect every other person in our family – either for the good or for bad.



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*Someone once told me: “A Family is what we are individually and what we are together.”*

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In our diagram, each circle represents an individual with a heart, a mind, ideas, opinions, values, feelings and hopes.

Each intersecting circle represents intersecting and potentially differing, thoughts, ideas, opinions, values, feelings and hopes.

The more circles there are, the more intersecting relationships we have. The more intersecting relationships we



have, the more opportunity for differences, conflicts, problems and family relational challenges and instability.

**Gods blueprint is set. God's purpose is to remodel individuals in order to remodel the family into His Divine Design.**

### **Consider these Questions**

- 1) What is my family structure and life according to God's blueprint in Eph. 5 & 6?
- 2) How is Gods' Intelligent Divine Design evidenced in my family?
- 3) Where do I need to start restructuring or remodeling, in order to make corrective measures so my family would be all God desires it to be?

### **Follow-up Prayer for our families;**

- 1) Pray for your family as a unit
- 2) Pray for your children
- 3) Pray for your parents
- 4) Pray for your spouse
- 5) Repentance from not seeking God's Design for your family.
- 6) Initial steps to consider in order to begin working toward making our family come up to code according To God's blueprint for the family

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## "Training in Truth and Faith Formation"

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June 12, 2011

Deut.6:3ff

For a while when I was in seminary, I worked doing lawn work and odd jobs around some affluent neighborhoods. One of them was home to Michael Jordan, Scotty Pippen, and Mike Ditka. I never got a job from any of them, but I worked in that affluent area.

One job I had was working for a retired gentleman who hired me to paint trim on his house. He told me of some remodeling work he had done on the trim on his house, and how one company quoted him a few thousand dollars to work on his trim, and another company quoted him a just few hundred dollars for the same job. Then I remember him stating that he had taken the lower bid for a few hundred dollars and winked at me, saying, "I got a good deal".

At the time I just thought he was a shrewd business man. But as I began painting, I realized I was painting over rotten wood. I mentioned it to the man and he simply stated that the people who worked on his house assured him it was all repaired and ready to paint. So I went on painting over the rotten wood, covering up things that really needed to be addressed.

The family is in need of reaffirming God's expectation of training in truth and faith formation. We must refrain from offering excuses and looking the other way, when it has been brought to our attention that something needs to be addressed.

## That it may go well with you

It is difficult for us to fully grasp, but all God's commands and instruction in His word the Bible, have both a heavenly and an earthly purpose.

**The Heavenly purpose:** All that God ordains is intended to bring Him glory and to cause Him to be praised.

**The Earthly purpose:** That we would grow to trust Him fully, and that things will go well for us.

And remember, our relationships are both vertical between us and God, but also our relationships are horizontal, between one another.

**Gods commands have a purpose for our family:**  
**"That it will go well with us."**

Ephesians 5:22-6:4 give us God's blueprint for family relationships.

Deuteronomy 6:1-8 gives us God's Intelligent Divine Design for training in truth and faith formation. God's blueprint for the family and His intelligent Divine Design is that the creation (us) is totally dependent upon the Creator (God). We as humans are absolutely dependent upon God, whether we perceive it or not.

That dependence is taking into consideration with everything God reveals to us in His word, which carries with it His heavenly purpose, and an earthly purpose.



**God gives us the promise of full dependence:**  
**"That it may go well with you."**

**Deu 4:40** Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, *that it may go well with you and with your children after you*, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

**Deu 5:16** "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and *that it may go well with you* ...

**Deu 5:33** You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, *that you may live, and that it may go well with you...*

**Deu 6:3** Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, *that it may go well with you...*

**Deu 6:18** And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, *that it may go well with you...*

**Deu 12:28** Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, *that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever*, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

**Eph 6:3** "...*that it may go well with you...*"

**3Jn 1:2** Beloved, I pray *that all may go well with you* and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.

The importance of training in truth and faith formation.

Someone has said: "It is better to build strong boys than to fix broken men." - unknown

Family is what we are individually and what we are together.  
And family is all about relationship!

We train by our words. Moreso, we train by modeling our words.  
Train by teaching with our words, training with our modeling  
and evidencing our own faith through our joint experiences.

A Parent's attitude, values, interests, experiences, will  
significantly impact or even form the attitudes, values, interests  
of our children.

How we view the Sabbath – Lord's Day, moral Values, dating  
and marriage, being unequally yoked, giving, even serving Jesus  
Christ will affect our children – not so much by our words, but  
by our lifestyle.

**The promise of Independence: "That it will go lousy  
with you."**

A life independent of God is a life lived without serious  
consideration as to His instruction to us and our obedience to  
Him.

People don't set out to have a lousy life. Families don't plan to  
fail. But our perception of our need for God and our obedience in  
light of His word will generally determine the path our children  
will take.

**Jeremiah 4:14** Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, surely you have  
utterly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'It shall be  
well with you,' whereas the sword has reached their very life."

**Jeremiah 4:18** Your ways and your deeds have brought  
this upon you. This is your doom, and it is bitter; it has  
reached your very heart."

As the promise of dependence upon God and His Holy word, brings the promise of “it shall go well with you.” Conversely to that is the promise that if we live independently from God and His Holy Word, it will not go well with us, or perhaps it will even go lousy with us.

## **Groundhogs in the Garden**

*“The one who feeds the groundhogs, destroys his own garden.”*

Obedience or disobedience to God always brings consequences.

Groundhogs are those things we allow into our family garden that eats it fill and devours our families from the inside out.

Not all, but for very many – our problems are the result of our actions. Our troubles are promised consequences for out choices, lifestyle and lack of family training in truth and formation of faith.

## **Little disobedience goes a long way**

Disobedience is sin and sin is always a serious thing with God. I’ve heard it said, “If you have a ground hog in your garden today, it will be destroyed tomorrow.” Disobedience is like a groundhog in your garden. Sin will eat away at your life, your family, your relationships, until one day we realize our garden is gone – destroyed by the groundhogs we allowed to feed there.

**Deu 6:3-9** Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that **it may go well with you**, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. (4) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (5) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (6) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. (7) You shall teach them diligently

to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (8) You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (9) You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### **A Little remodeling goes a long way**

Remodeling our spiritual house – training in truth and faith formation goes a long way to bringing the pleasure and blessing of God. God has a blueprint for the family and remodeling the family means doing what needs to be done, addressing what needs to be addressed in order to bring our spiritual house up to code, in order to be match Gods blueprint for the family.

Take tithing for instance. I have never met anyone whom I feel really couldn't tithe or give.

Many people feel they can't tithe because they don't have enough money. Once they believe that, it gets passed on to their children. Now they grow up with the same excuse of obedience, not to tithe because they "don't have enough money to tithe" or to give as an offering. I used to think like that until the Lord taught me a lesson on giving.

In 20 years in Chicago I saw lots of interesting things. I used to walk a mile one way to church every Sunday morning and evening. In that mile through part of Chicago I would often pass street people, beggars, pan-handlers.

I remember attending church one Sunday morning and seeing a street person in the service, which wasn't unusual where we were. During the service, the offering was taken up and the street person took money out of his pocket – *bills* – and placed several bills into the offering plate. This was a street person.

I thought I had good reason as a student, not to tithe, because my finances were so meager. But then I remember being so very convicted that if a street person could tithe, what excuse do I have?.

I left the service that afternoon and walking home, there on the street corner begging for money was that same street person who gave his last bills in the church offering plate.

As Christians – As Christian families – we cannot afford to fail to train our children in truth and faith formation and we cannot afford to neglect teaching our children all about God's holy ways and His paths of righteousness – because either we believe His promises and expect Him to perform what He has promised, or else we call God a liar to His face and be done with the whole charade. *Either our faith is absolutely supreme, or its absolutely worthless!*

Neglecting to train our children in truth and faith formation is like painting over rotten wood. It's a cover up and it needs to be addressed. We need to get the groundhogs out of our family gardens.

Mom and Dad – above must a combined effort. That is God's Blueprint for the family. But there are situations in which God's blueprint differs and roles change.

Mom – this may be your own responsibility. If you're single, it's up to you to teach your children. If you're married, but unequally yoked, it may be up to you to teach both your children, as well as your husband. (1Cor. 7:13-14)

Dads – this may be your own responsibility. If married, but unequally yoked, it may be up to you to teach both your children, as well as your wife.



## **There may come a time when we need to call in the Exterminator**

Commit and take steps toward repenting from areas of failure and take steps towards remodeling our family – and getting the groundhogs out of our gardens.

**Some Groundhogs that will ruin the garden.**

### **1) Nurturing a growing disregard for God's holy word.**

Neglecting to raise with family devotions, family worship, family discussions on truth and life situations. Teaching– that following Christ is optional –that serving Christ is optional.

Teaching by word and by example that that the Sabbath – the Lord's day is optional – that its really your day to do as you please.

Once our children realize that God doesn't care about the Sabbath, it will follow by our own teaching and example that the other 9 commandments are just as meaningless.

### **2) Condoning circumstances that Gods calls sins.**

Relationships, lifestyle, behavior, decisions.....

**These sins can be nurtured by our children being untrained in relationship development and left to their own irresponsible behavior in dating**

Allowing children to date unbelievers. (2 Cor. 6:14)

Neglecting to teach them about dating unbelievers, the temptations within dating, the dangers and limits of sexual contact, the way to say “**NO**”, the time to ask for “**HELP**”, the courage and the heart to stay pure for Christ's sake.

**1Ti 6:11** But as for you, O man of God, *flee* these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

**2Ti 2:22** So *flee* youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

**Jas 4:7** *Submit* yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

If we fail to train our children in truth and righteousness, make no mistake about it and do not be surprised, because the world, the government, the school system, the kids your kids are friends with - they will teach our children for us.

*For many Christian families, these are groundhogs in our gardens that will devour us if we take no action.*

**Sinful thoughts and desires nurtured by our children being unsupervised in audio and visual input.**

### **MOVIES**

“Its harmless enough”. “Its not real, It’s just a movie”

Parents, If you aren’t aware, please consider **Groundhog Alerts**.

PG-13, and R ratings.

### **Groundhog Alerts:**

**PG-13** often goes to the very edge in terms of graphic violence, vulgar language and sexual content. If the video says “Adult situations”, that means inappropriate sexual content and is often loaded with subtle sexual inferences – subtle or perhaps undetectable to some children, but not so subtle if you’re an alert adult aware of what your children are being *anesthetized* with.

**R** – you can count on vulgar language and nudity, especially these **R** rated horror films - graphic violence combined with nudity and sexual content is the norm – *it's a box office please*.

Some parents may say: “Its just entertainment.” My question is How can we call *entertainment*, what God calls an *abomination*?

*For many Christian families, these are Groundhogs in our Gardens that will devour us if we take no action.*

## **Groundhog Alerts**

### **Magazines.**

“Soft Porn” around your house, such as Sports Illustrated Swimsuit edition, Vanity Fair, or Cosmopolitan magazines. If you want your boys to grow up addicted to sexual lust and pornography, just keep those items lying around the house.

### **Music**

**MTV and other similar cable video music channels** – mostly filth – verbal and visual filth. Predominantly the music content focused on violence, and sex.

### **Cable Cartoons & the “Cartoon Channel”**

The Simpsons, Family Guy, Chowder, Adult Swim, - filth – If its not nudity, or sexual inferences – its simply destructively crude.

**The Simpsons** – Nothing positive here, only training in lewd, crude and rude behavior. One teacher told me the first day of class, she was asking the new children their names. One very young boy answered, I’m “Billie Smith”, who the hell are you?” That response was one of Bart Simpson’s infamous quotes.

**Family Guy** – I personally saw a man lying face down in bed with no bottoms, with a horse licking his exposed buttocks.

**Chowder** – showed a man from the head to his chest view - with the back of a 2<sup>nd</sup> man's head clearly in front and just below full camera view.

While the 1<sup>st</sup> man's eyes begin to roll back, the camera pulls back to reveal the 2<sup>nd</sup> man pulling his head out from under the 1<sup>st</sup> man's t-shirt – exposing the first man's woman-like breasts and swollen nipples.

Parents, these are not cartoons geared to mentally retarded adult viewers who like cartoons. These are cartoons produced with an adult level of understanding of sexual content, yet clearly geared to attract children with its cartoon format, with the purpose of desensitizing them to the very things that God calls abomination and blasphemous.

**Deu 5:33** You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

*Unfortunately for many Christian families, these are Groundhogs in our Gardens that will devour us if we take no action.*

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*Your ways and your deeds have brought this upon you.*

*This is your doom, and it is bitter; it has reached your very heart."*

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**Neglecting to address sinful and moral issues, because of fear of their response. "They'll be OK, its not that big of an issue!"**

"I'm afraid they'll get mad." "They won't be responsive."

"They won't listen to me."

Continue to let the media train your children and form their character and values and yes, this will be true. Continue to look the other way and refrain from building strong relationships with your children and yes, this will be true.

Commit to God to begin to remodel your family to bring it up to His code and begin training your children in Truth and faith formation, and perhaps with the change they may rebel, but be assured, that in doing so, you have God's blessing in what you are doing.

**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.) Strong relationships with our children.**

If we build strong relationships, these issues will become a structure of addressing many moral issues. A strong relationship is crucial to teach but also to correct.

**b.) respectful treatment toward our children**

Regardless of how we feel about it, we are still parents. Parents are still responsible before God and accountable to God for what we teach, and allow for our children.

There are ways to teach and correct with love and respect for our children.

**Eph. 6:4** – “Fathers do not exasperate your children...” “Do not provoke them to wrath” = do not bring anger along side them.

Don't “lay down the law” and yell, belittle, and humiliate them.

Don't provide cause for anger. But Rather--- Train them up or rear them or “nurture them” in the ways of the Lord. It a livestock term that means to “fatten up”. Fill your children up on the things of the Lord.

We don't starve our children for food and then one day set a plate in front of them. Neither should we starve our children from physical affection and spiritual direction and then one day set a plate of instructions in front of them and expect them to obey and make Biblical, moral, God honoring choices. It must be a life long process of which we train and model.

**4) Parent/parents who try to teach the word, but live something different.** Modeling Hypocrisy. **“Don't do as I do, do as I say!”**

More than any other reason on the planet, that is what causes people and our children to detest and reject our “religion” and ultimately makes them so very difficult to reach and resilient to training in Biblical truth and faith formation.

*This is a groundhog that is very difficult to get out of the garden.*

**5) Making “rules without reasons”.** (Josh McDowell)

“Rules without Reasons” – **“Because I said so!”**, Causes Rebellion rather than receptivity.

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*Our families need to be remodeled and be brought up to code – God's code for the family.*

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Family Remodeling requires family modeling. It means parents teach with words and also model with their lifestyle.

*Perhaps we need to consider calling in the Terminator and surrendering our family to God all over again.*

## **APPLICATION –**

The family which avoids training in truth and neglects focusing on faith formation, fails to provide what every human being so

crucially needs, that is the knowledge of truth, the understanding of sin and the expectations of God Himself.

No one would consider keeping their child locked up in the closet under the stairway, until the age of 14, then letting them out, sending them on a journey across the country without any compass, any map or any guidance. That's absurd, but that is exactly what happens when we fail to train our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We are preparing them to be devoured by the devil, the world and any other influence available.

There are times when we must train our children. There are times when we must begin allowing our children to make their own decisions with our input and guidance. Then there are times when, as parents, we must allow our children to make their own decisions and to experience either the success or failure of as the result of their own choices. Parental wisdom comes in knowing how much intervention to offer, how much freedom to allow and when to know the difference.

*The one who feeds the groundhogs, destroys his own garden.*

Don't be guilty of feeding the groundhogs that ruin our families. Commit before God that we will seek

- 1) Admit your need and dependence for God
- 2) Seek God's help and direction for my leadership in my family.
- 3) Be willing to change my lifestyle to bring my own personal life up to code in keeping with God's blueprint of my life.
- 4) Gather your family together and share with them your desire and intent for your family to be what God desires it to be.

AND that you will lead them in doing so. That means personally changing, personally sacrificing some things, and personally living differently.

**Prayer for our families;**

- 1) Repentance from not seeking God's Design for your family.
- 2) Pray for your family as a unit
- 3) Pray for your children
- 4) Pray for your parents
- 5) Pray for your spouse

Thoughts about what might need to be addressed in my family:

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## "The Focus of Attack and The Promise of Victory"

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June 19, 2011

Eph.5:22-33

Family = what we are individually and what we are together.

### **I      God's Blueprint in Action**

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**Eph 5:22-33** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (24) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (28) In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (29) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, (30) because we are members of his body. (31) "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (32) This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to

Christ and the church. (33) However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**Eph 6:1-4** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), (3) "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." (4) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### **A. God's Blueprint for Wives**

#### **\* Submission**

v22) "submit" = allow your husband to be led by God.

1. It doesn't mean you are to be passive or feel inferior.
2. It doesn't mean that you submit only when you think he's right.
3. It doesn't mean that you violate Scripture, reason, or morality to support your husband.
4. It doesn't mean you're a doormat.
5. It doesn't mean you "use submission" as a tool to get your way.

Submission is what you do before God, out of reverence for Christ to (GB, p19)

**1Ti 5:14** So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.

“manage” – oikos despot – home ruler or manager of the household

## **B. God's Blueprint for Husbands**

\* Sacrifice

Eph.5:25a) “love your wives”

-not emotional love -not physical love -not friendship

**agape** – God like love – sacrificial love – unconditional love

1. example as Christ loved the church

sacrificially – unconditionally

2. “gave himself up...” (Eph.5:25b)

1. It doesn't mean you always do what your wife wants.

2. It doesn't mean you don't have a life of your own.

3. It doesn't mean you make her dependent on you.

4. It doesn't mean you “call all the shots.”

The Responsibility = Come before God on behalf of your family and come before your family on behalf of God.

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Mat 19:6</b> Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh.<br/>What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.</p> |
|---|

Let no one put us under – asunder = separate

## **C. Gods' Blueprint for Parents**

\* Faithful = to be faithful in the responsibility of training their children in Truth and faith formation.

**Eph.6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

**Pro 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

**D. God's Blueprint for children**

\* Obedience = receptive to training in truth and faith formation as servants of God within the family unit.

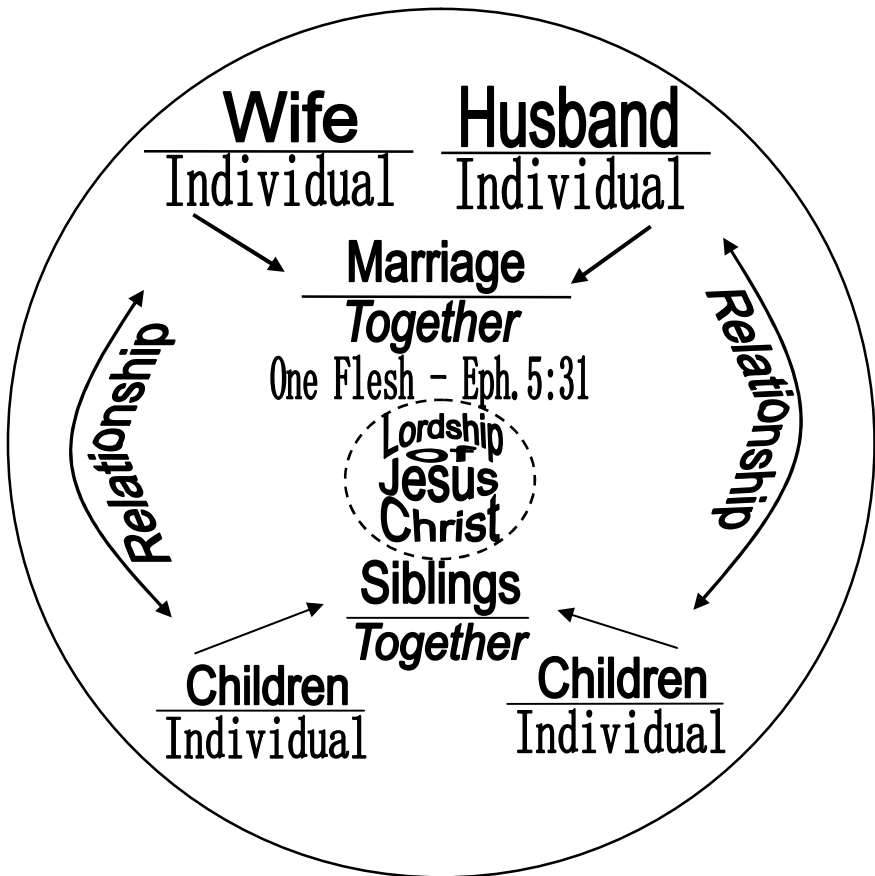
Relationship development

Trust development

# "Building Blocks for a Family Foundation"

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June 26, 2011



Family = what we are individually and what we are together.

Training receptivity

faith formation

Family Building Blocks

Without Christ in the center of the family, we are individually eternally and spiritually empty.

Without Christ at the center of our marriages, our marriages are eternally and spiritually empty.

Without Christ at the center of the family, our families are eternally and spiritually empty and we are forever missing God's best for us, both individually and together.

## **REVIEW**

Eph. 5:22-6:4 - God's blueprint for the Family Relationship

Deut. 6:1-8 - - God's Intelligent Divine Design for Truth  
Training for faith formation.

Family = what we are individually and what we are together.

## **Family Failures**

In his book, "*One Family At A Time*" Dennis Rainey states that the family is where we are today because of some key failures.

### **Family Failure #1) We have lost our fear of God.**

Family leaders have evidently come to the conclusion that the word of God and His expectations for us are optional.

When the word of God describes the overall fallen state of sinful humanity, Paul tells us that there are none who are righteous, no not one... then he goes on to state...

**Rom 3:18** "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

That not only describes our American culture, unfortunately it describes many families in general and sadly, even some Christian families.

\* There are some American family members have turned their backs on Gods' truth and Biblical examples. It is no longer the standard by which we teach and govern our families.

### **Family Failure #2) We have abandoned absolute Truth**

According to family surveys and polls, the American family no longer believes in Absolute Truth – that is what is true for all people, for all times, in all places – even true among a growing number of Christian families. There is the growing belief that what is true for some people may not be true for others. Or What was true for people in the Bible, is not true for us today – times have changed, cultures have shifted, people view things differently. We can't hold our kids to the things our parents held us to, they'll be traumatized, they'll reject it, they'll turn away from God completely if we force anything on them – even our faith or moral values.

**Rom 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

If God detests it when unbelievers suppress His Truth, how do you think He feels when His own people suppress His Truth by our allowances, and permission and our turning our backs to the

things our culture teaches, yet many of our children are participating in?

**Family Failure #3) We have accepted divorce (and sexual immorality)**

Parents have accepted divorce and something that is a viable option for them. They have accepted sexual immorality as something they can't fight so they feel they must resign to accept it and allow it as something every young person has to choose for themselves.

**Family Failure #4) We gave lost our distinctives in male and female roles in the family**

**Family Failure #5) We have abandoned our Children**

By allowing our children more freedom than they are able to deal with, we have abandoned them. Many are given the freedom to adopt their own faith, rather than be obedient to God and teach them what God and His word teach.

Many are given freedom regarding whether or not they will attend church or not. Whether or not they will work on Sunday or whether or not they will remain sexually pure or not.

George Barna: "We have plunged into a danger zone in which increasing numbers of people-whether they are part of the body of believers or not- are incapable of disentangling cultural mores from fundamental Christian values."

A Decade ago, in an article entitled, "Why Johnny can't tell right from wrong", the Wall Street Journal made this statement: No other parents in the industrialized world spends less time with their children than American mothers and fathers. According to the Wall Street Journal, American parents spend on average, "less than 15 minutes a week in serious discussion with their



children”. With what we know about our culture, these figures have not improved since then.

**Family Failure #6) For those who are concerned, most feel powerless to effect change.**

In his book Rainey states that in order for our families to turn around, we must address and correct these issues, that our families can experience reformation or as we have been referring to it as remodeling our families in order to bring them back up to code – biblical code.

**I      Building Blocks for a Family Foundation**

*Kanaan ministries. “God’s Blueprint for the Family”*

Charles Swindoll: “Whatever else may be said about the home, it is the bottom line of life, the anvil upon which attitudes and convictions are hammered out. It is the place where life’s bills come due, the single most influential force in our earthly existence....It is at home, among family members, that we come to terms with circumstances. It is here life makes up its mind.”

It seems to me, we are quick to criticize our government, evaluate our culture and point the finger at everyone else.

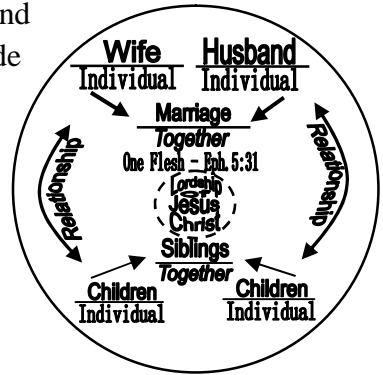
Vodie Bachman states: “It seems that everyone wants to change the world, but no one wants to change themselves.”

“A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started....He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporations...The fate of humanity is in his hands.”

--another minister... – opps, sorry that was – Abraham Lincoln

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will turn his world upside down for Christ.

(Prov.22:6 & Acts 17:6)



**Key Building Blocks to building or strengthening family relationship and for world domination**

**Psalm 127:1-5** Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (2) It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. (3) Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. (4) Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. (5) Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

**1) Building Block of Priorities**

\* The focus is on first things. What is of utmost importance in our family?

What does God want for my family?

What am I/we doing to help foster and produce that?

The Lordship of Jesus Christ

**Rom 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

1. **Unconditional love** – tell your children “I love you”. Separate their

behaviour from their personhood. “The consequences will not change,

but I love you just as much.”

**1Co 13:4-8** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant (5) or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; (6) it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (7) Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (8) Love never ends...

Show your love in ways you know your child understands, feels and receives love. “5 love languages for children” – Gary Chapman

2. **Schedule time** alone with them. Actually use your daytime, or calendar and schedule in family things.

- share your schedule with your children - let them know when you do and when you don't have free time, when you have to focus on work or other things.

3. **Acceptance and appreciation - Enjoy one another.** Have some fun together! It is important a child is loved, it is also important that a child feels liked.

## **2) The Building Block of Relationships**

\* Focus is on the person and how we relate to one another.

Avoid Rules without reason. (Josh McDowell)

Avoid Reasons, without Relationship.

Nurture Relationship over rules

Consider Morality over mistakes

**Prov. 19:11** Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

**\*\* Distinguishing between Spilling milk and moral behavior.**

Building Up rather than tearing down

**1Th 5:11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**Pro 14:1** The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.

Feelings, emotions

Impressions and perceptions

Experiences and outlook on life

3. **Focused attention** – all of you is there with all of them.

“Imagine That” w/ Eddie Murphy. A very successful business investment consultant struggles to spend time with his daughter, while attempting to gain the Captains Seat in a large business merge.

4. **Eye contact**. = attention: attention communicates genuine interest.

5. **Affection - Meaningful touching**.- even when correcting.

Eye contact – touch – even when correcting.

6. **Ongoing communication**. Listening, sharing, Regular times of talking as a family. Turn off the TV, Eat a meal together two or three times a week.

Don't correct with silent treatment. Correct and continue meaningful, loving communication and expression.

### **3) The Building Block of Modeling**

\* Focus is on being a living human example.

Living what you teach. Being what you want your child(ren) to become.

Shunning hypocrisy - the poison which kills .

Genuine faith.

Treat our children the way we would want them to treat us and others.

Expect our children to treat us the way we treat them.

**Admitting mistakes** – coming to a point of realizing you were wrong. Resigning to the fact that I may need to say I'm sorry, I was wrong.

\* Do not let hurt heal itself. It never does!

**ILL** Cut yourself and don't address it, it heals with bigger more noticeable scars. Address the wound, clean it, band aid, perhaps stitches and it heals far less hideously.

### **The 5 Love Languages of Apology – Gary Chapman**

- I'm sorry      - I was wrong      -Please forgive me

- I'll try not to do it again      -How can I make it up to you?

\* Don't expect our mistakes, our outbursts and our offenses to fix themselves. They won't!

#### **4) The Building Block of Perseverance**

“The Endeavor” - Survival in unimaginable circumstances.  
Making the family work.

Maturing children, faith formation, relational development is a life long family endeavor.

Not giving in to the culture.  
family.

Not giving up on the

Keeping your priorities

Focusing on relationships

Striving on being a model

Resolving to persevere.

**Jas 4:6-10** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (7) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

**\*\*** Your family will never be what you want it to be, nor what God wants it to be, without doing what it takes to remodel your own family to bring it up to code, by inviting the Lord Jesus Christ to the center of your family and for the Bible to be your blueprint.

## **What Every Child Needs**

## **What Every Child Needs**

A loving family  
A life worth living  
A mother's love  
A father's pride  
A Cheerleader  
A proper image  
A close friend  
A life coach  
A cause to pursue  
A responsible role model  
A genuine hero  
A Divine calling  
A discerning spirit  
A greater purpose  
A life passion  
A set of priorities  
A skill to use  
A faith to share  
A road to travel  
A path to follow  
A burden to carry  
A promise to cling to  
A hope to believe in  
A battle to fight for  
An outlet to change them  
A ministry to consume them  
A disciple to influence  
A vision for the kingdom  
A risk to take  
A Course to consider  
A purpose worth dieing for  
A Love for God  
A Hatred for sin  
A wonder about creation  
A concern about the future

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ  
An awareness of eternity  
An understanding of humanity  
An Anger toward oppression  
An Intolerance toward persecution  
An Outrage over injustice  
An ability for decision making  
Deep Moral Values  
True Spiritual Fruit  
Humility of self  
Compassion for others  
Genuine admiration  
Unconditional Acceptance  
Appropriate Affection  
Focused priorities  
Confidence in who they are  
Someone to listen to them  
Someone they can listen to  
Adequate Encouragement  
Selective discouragement  
Biblical guidance  
Something to believe in  
Someone to believe in them  
Something to give themselves for  
True identity  
Consistent discipline  
Rules with reason  
(J.McDowell)  
Patient Understanding  
Goals to achieve

***Bottom line:***

Children need parents to train them in truth and faith formation. If our children do not get these from us, they will get them elsewhere!

***\*\* Parents, we need the Lord's help!***

*“Lest the Lord build the house,  
they labor in vain who build it..” --Psalm 127:1*



Ephesians 5:22-6:4  
Deuteronomy 6:1-8



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# ***Don't close this booklet yet***

*without considering this all important question.*

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## **Is Jesus Christ the Savior of *your* soul and the Lord of *your* life?**

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;  
--Romans 3:23

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come  
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only  
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should  
not perish, but have everlasting life. --John 3:16

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him  
to die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is  
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
-- Romans 6:23

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of  
Jesus Christ in our place for our sins.

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were  
still sinners, Christ died for us. ---Romans 5:8

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
will be saved." -- Rom 10:13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his  
name, he gave the right to become children of God,  
- John 1:12

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that you  
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

*Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness for your sins  
and citizenship into God's family and His Kingdom.*

### **The ABCs**

**A** - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

**B** - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help yourself.

**C** - Confess your sins to God. He already knows. Also Confess Jesus as you LORD. He desires and deserves to be your Lord.

**Prayer**: Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

**Connect** with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

**Commit** yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

**Heb 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Act 2:41-42** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

For more information or for spiritual help, please contact us at:  
Christ E. Free Church, PO Box 619, 19682 Hill Rd,  
Saegertown, Pa, 16433, Ph: 814-763-2934, [www.christefca.org](http://www.christefca.org)

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*It is our prayer that you find **Jesus Christ** to be...  
your highest calling,  
your greatest purpose,  
your soul's source and joy,  
and your all-consuming passion.*

### Other Free Booklets downloadable at [www.ChristEFCA.org](http://www.ChristEFCA.org)

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A NEW CREATION: *Beginning Your New Life In Christ*  
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*May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field.*

*--- Downloadable free resources at: [www.christefca.org](http://www.christefca.org) --*

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