

Praying for Marriage and Family

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Go Church Centurion

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“The potency of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire; it has bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.”

- Chrysostom

The Dominion Mandate

Gen 1:27-28

²⁷So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

This is what is known as the dominion mandate, or the cultural mandate.

Definition: Domain- noun. Lands or areas held or ruled over; sphere of influence; field of knowledge or activity; region; arena; realm; territory; kingdom; principality; possession; refers to lordship.

God created the *domains* or “mountains of influence” in every society and nation. Through these arena’s God desires to reveal Himself, dimensions of His character and His purposes for that particular domain. This has far-reaching ramifications for all Bible-believing Christians. He desires that we as His children make His Name known in all the earth, in all the domains. Different Christians are called primarily to different domains. There is thus no sacred-secular divide *per se*. Once we are born

again, everything we do is for Kingdom purposes. We all are in “full-time ministry” so to speak, although we don’t all have pulpits and preach to churches on Sundays.

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden **to (tend) dress (work) it** and to keep it.”

Each of us have been assigned a garden/s, or domain/s in which God has set us. He has set us there to tend (serve or work) and keep (watch...pray).

Dress – ‘âbad (aw-bad): to work (in any sense); by implication to serve, be bondmen, bond-service, compel, do, dress, ear, execute, husbandman, keep, labour, bring to pass, (cause to, make to) serve, (be, become) servant (-s), do (use) service, till (er), (set a) work, worshipper.

Search under “work” in OT when the word “work” comes up (Hebrew has many different words for work with different connotations), out of 420 times it appears in OT, only 5 of those that I could find were awbad. When I looked under “serve”, there were 209 verses, and almost all of them were this word awbad.

Keep - shâmar (shaw-mar'): A primitive root; properly to hedge about (as with thorns), that is, guard; generally to protect, attend to, etc.: - beware, be circumspect, take heed, keep, mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save, watch (-man).

We all have gardens in our lives that God has given us responsibility for.

What are the various “gardens” in our lives that God has called us to watch over, to tend, to protect?

Family? Marriage? Children? Sphere of influence? Church? Geographical location? Area? Governmental dept? legislation? Laws of the land? Unborn babies? Elderly and geriatrics? Media? Children? Business practise? Education? Health? Trends in science? Agriculture? Mining? Labour?

Ezekiel 3:17

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman to the house of Israel. Therefore, hear the Word of My mouth, and give them warning from Me.”

Watchman: tsâphâh (tsaw-faw)'

A primitive root; properly to lean forward, that is, to peer into the distance; by implication to observe, await: - behold, espy, look up (well), wait for, (keep the) watch (-man).

Ezekiel 22:30

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

What are the “walls” that God needs us to build up and stand in the gap so to speak, as we protect the gardens within?

Prov 24:30-31

³⁰“I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; ³¹And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down.”

Exodus 9:16

But indeed, for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

Mal 1:11

For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,” Says the Lord of hosts.

Hab 2:14

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

The call and assignment to a specific domain/s is not valuable because of the particular domain or the title, it is valuable and important because of the One who issued the calling. The converse is true. It is important for each of us to value and be faithful to the assignment God has called us to regardless of the domain we find ourselves in.

These domains are not absolute, and can overlap, but they descriptively assist us as we think about and pray for the different aspects of society and God's Kingdom to come therein.

Each *Domain* should be viewed with equal value, yet be understood as part of a greater whole, which is the full revelation of Jesus (*Colossians 1:15-20*).

Col 1:15-20

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. ¹⁶All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. ¹⁹For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Rev 11:15

"The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Kingdom Domains

1. Family
2. Education
3. Church
4. Government
5. Business & Economics (including agriculture)
6. Health, Science and Technology
7. Media & Communication
8. Arts, Entertainment and Sports

Why pray?

Jer 29:1-14

¹"This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ²(This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) ³He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said: ⁴**This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."** ⁸Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. ⁹They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD. ¹⁰This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

1 Tim 2:1-4

*¹“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be **made for all men,** ²**for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.** ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

If we are to truly impact and transform all of society with the Kingdom of God, we need bible-believing, disciplined Christians in all of these domains, and in areas of influence within these domains. We also need intelligent, Holy-Spirit led prayer and warfare over each domain. God has a blueprint for each domain, and ultimately every domain should reflect dimensions or attributes of God and His kingdom. Thus, when praying for a specific domain, we need to pray using all manner of prayers, yes, but intelligently and with God’s blueprint in mind at the same time.

“In nothing has the church so lost her hold on reality as in her failure to understand and respect the secular vocation. She has allowed work and religion to become separate departments and is astonished to find that as a result, the secular work of the world is turned to purely destructive and selfish ends and that the greater part of the world’s intelligent workers have become irreligious or at least uninterested in religion. But is it so astonishing? How can anyone remain interested in a religion which seems to have no concern with nine tenths of life?”. Dorothy Sayers

The Domains:

1. Family: Relationships & Authority

Name, nature and attributes of God:

The name and nature of God that is revealed in and through this domain is Heavenly Father. The term Father carries with it connotations of source, author, originator, provider, sustainer, protector, nourisher. Family is the entity that God designed in order that each one of us experience this aspect of His nature personally. Some of the aspects of God that we should experience in family include love, adoption, acceptance, provision, nurture, protection, discipline, understanding relationships and submission to authority.

Mt 6:6-9

⁶But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸“Therefore, do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name...”

Mt 6:26

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Eph 1:3-6

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Rom 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

The purpose of the family domain:

To provide a safe, loving, nurturing environment for growth, emotional security, and passing on of biblical values and education for the next generation. It is important to understand that our children learn more from who we are and what we do than what we say. Our lifestyles, what we value as expressed in our day-to-day lives, how we relate to one another as husband and wife, will be absorbed. After this, what we teach and instruct them becomes important.

Some scriptures that help us to understand the nature and purpose of this domain:

Deut 5:16

Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

See also Deut 5:18 and 21.

Deut 6:6-9

⁶“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Isa 40:11

*He will feed His flock like a shepherd;
He will gather the lambs with His arm,
And carry them in His bosom,
And gently lead those who are with young.*

1 John 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Ps 131:2

*Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul,
Like a weaned child with his mother;
Like a weaned child is my soul within me.*

Prov 22:6

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

Prov 22:15

*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of correction will drive it far from him.*

See also: 1 Cor 4:16; Mt 19:14

In the context of Marriage and family, God gives us the blue print. We need to build the walls where they should be according to His plans.

A healthy marriage forms the foundation for a healthy environment in the home. Healthy marriages are the bedrocks of a healthy society.

Marriage

The over-arching, far-reaching thinking that I need to have, you need to have, every bible-believing Christian needs to have, is that I am not my own, my life is not my own, my time is not my own, my marriage is not my own, my children are not mine to own, and my husband is not mine to own. I am a steward of all of these things. This means that I treat them with respect and fear of the Lord. It means that I live with them and relate to them in such a manner as would be acceptable being fully aware that I will have to give an account to the Lord regarding these things one day.

1 Cor 6:19-20

¹⁹"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Cor 7:4

The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

Whenever I borrow something from someone, or am using something that is not mine, I make sure that I use it how it is meant to be used. I never want to use something of someone else's and break it. I tend to be more disciplined around the instruction manual. I read the instructions pertinent to my use of it and try and comply. Now within the context of this thing called marriage,... husband and wife, it is not my own idea or creation. It does not belong to me. One day I will give an

account of my role and faithfulness with what God apportioned me. So. I need to check the instruction manual and try and comply as best I can.

Woman as *Ezer*:

Gen 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."

Ezer: Help meet; strong helper; helper comparable

'êzer (ay'-zer); *aid*: - help.

The meaning of ezer, however, was diminished when translators rendered it "helpmeet" and restricted it to marriage.

Scholars noted that 16 of the 21 occurrences of the word ezer in the OT is when the word is used to refer to God as Israel's helper in times of trouble. The translation of Gen. 2:18 was upgraded to strong helper. Further research indicated that ezer is a powerful military Hebrew word whose significance we have barely begun to unpack.

Of the 21 occurrences of the word ezer in the OT:

- two for women
- sixteen for God
- three for military powers.

The 16 references to God: powerful military language permeates every passage. God is the helper, deliverer, shield, and sword of his people. In battle he is more trustworthy than chariots and horses. He personally stands on sentry duty, guarding his own from their enemies. His strong arm overthrows all their foes.

If we look at the verb form of the word, ezer ("to rescue or save"), it appears approx 80 times in OT. It "generally indicates military assistance."

In 19 of the 21 times that ezer appears in the Bible, and in nearly 100 percent of the uses of the verb form, there is an overwhelming military connotation. But for some strange reason, when the same word refers to a woman, we end up talking about

making babies, submission, and cleaning house. Considering the evidence, it makes sense that this military imagery would carry over to the woman too.

The military language associated with the word ezer ties the same bold imagery to the strong helper.

The ezer is a warrior, and this has far-reaching implications for women, not only in marriage, but in every relationship, season, and walk of life.

With this in mind, let's look at God's instructions to wives:

1. Submit Yourself to Your Own Husband

Eph 5:22 - *Wives, **submit yourselves** unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

Eph 5:23 - *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.*

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

- You submit yourself
- To your own husband. Only one. Not all men. Not someone else's husband. Your own husband.
- As unto the Lord (deals with attitude?).

Submit yourselves (hupotassō):

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to arrange under, to subordinate
- 2) to subject, put in subjection
- 3) to subject one's self, obey
- 4) to submit to one's control
- 5) to yield to one's admonition or advice
- 6) to obey, be subject

Part of Speech: verb

Strong's

To *subordinate*; reflexively to *obey*: - be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.

It's interesting to me that we are instructed as wives to submit ourselves. Its something we do. It reminds me of what God said to the Israelites:

There is something necessary for us to do in submitting ourselves, positioning ourselves, arranging ourselves in our position of authority for the task that God has assigned to us as wives. I can't pray, "Lord I pray that you would submit me, or I pray that you would position me,....." Well, I can, but the instruction is that I do it.

Once I am positioned aright, now I can take care of business.

As a warrior princes, yes, I am called to come alongside him, yes, to help him in matter of domesticity and children. But there is much more than just these jobs that I am required to step up to.

2. Comfort and encourage your own husband:

Prov 31:12

She comforts, encourages, and does him only good as long as there is life within her.

Gen 3:20

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

Eve: **chavvâh** *khav-vaw'* Causative from; *lifegiver*.

Prov 15:4

A gentle tongue [with its healing power] is a tree of life, but willful contrariness in it breaks down the spirit.

Prov 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].

2 Sam 12:24

Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon.

3. Be Affectionate towards your own Husband

1 Cor 7:3

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

What does affection look like from the vantage point of your husband?

- Physical affection?
- His favourite meals?
- Is it quality time and conversation?
- Is it time away from the children and other responsibilities, with undivided attention?
- Phone calls or texts with content that show him you are in his world?
- Is it initiating in the bedroom?
- Is it new lingerie?

4. Guard your Heart and Mouth

Mt 12:34-37

³⁴Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Ps 141:3

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Mat 6:21

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

John 7:38

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Jam 1:26

If anyone thinks himself to be religious (piously observant of the external duties of his faith) and does not bridle his tongue but deludes his own heart, this person's religious service is worthless (futile, barren).

Prov 31:26

She opens her mouth in skillful and godly Wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness [giving counsel and instruction].

5. Adorn Yourself**1 Pet 3:3-5**

³Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— ⁴rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle (humble) and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands...

Does not exclude outward adornment. Includes it. And goes so far as to emphasize the adornment of the hidden person of the heart: with gentleness and a quiet spirit.

Prov 21:19

Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman.

Woman as Mother: Life-giver**Gen 3:20**

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

A Collins dictionary definition of mother (Collins):

Your mother is the woman who gave birth to you. You can also call someone your mother if she brings you up as if she were this woman. If a woman mothers a child, she looks after it and brings it up.

Synonyms: give birth to, produce, bear, bring forth.

Eve: – **chavvâh** *khav-vaw'* Causative from; *lifegiver*.

Eve. The ezer in question. Who was meant to be a warrior princess in fulfilling the dominion mandate caused death to enter. And God calls her lifegiver!

In what ways can the ezer bring life:

Heb 11:11

By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

What has God promised you?

Do you judge Him faithful?

James 1:21-25

²¹Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Gen 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

God desires to use us to give birth to “offspring” descendants, ideas, game changers, organizations, businesses, groups, etc. that will crush the head of the enemy. What has God called you to birth?

Some Instructions For Husbands (Eph 5:25-29)

1. Love Your Wife

Eph 5:25

*Husbands, **love** your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

Love - agapaō (*ag-ap-ah'-o*)

Strong's:

Perhaps from ἄγαν agan (*much*; or compare [H5689]); to *love* (in a social or moral sense): - (be-) love (-ed). Compare G5368.

Thayer's:

- 1) of persons
 - 1a) to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly
- 2) of things
 - 2a) to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing

Love (Noun and Verb)

A. Verbs.

1. agapao (G25) and the corresponding noun agape

"Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son, 1Jn 4:9, 1Jn 4:10. But obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects, Rom 5:8. It was **an exercise of the divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself**, Cf. Deu 7:7, Deu 7:8.

"Love had its perfect expression among men in the Lord Jesus Christ, 2Co 5:14; Eph 2:4; Eph 3:19; Eph 5:2; **Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian**, Gal 5:22.

"Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments, Joh 14:15, Joh 14:21, Joh 14:23; Joh 15:10; 1Jn 2:5; 1Jn 5:3; 2Jn 1:6. Selfwill, that is, **self-pleasing, is the negation of love to God.**

"Christian **love**, whether exercised toward the brethren, or toward men generally, **is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered. Love seeks the welfare of all, Rom 15:2, and works no ill to any, Rom 13:8-10; love seeks opportunity to do good to 'all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith,' Gal 6:10. See further 1 Corinthians 13 and Col 3:12-14."***

* From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine, p. 105.

In respect of agapao as used of God, it expresses the **deep and constant "love" and interest of a perfect Being towards entirely unworthy objects**, producing and fostering a reverential "love" in them towards the Giver, and a practical "love" towards those who are partakers of the same, and a desire to help others to seek the Giver. See *BELOVED*.

2. Sanctify and Cleanse Your Wife

Eph 5:26

*That he might **sanctify** and **cleanse** it with the washing of water by the word,*

Sanctify - *hagiazō* (*hag-ee-ad'-zo*)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow
- 2) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God
 - 2a) consecrate things to God
 - 2b) dedicate people to God
- 3) to purify
 - 3a) to cleanse externally
 - 3b) to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin
 - 3c) to purify internally by renewing of the soul

Do you wash her with the Word of God? Do you encourage her with the Truth of God's Word? Do you cultivate her with the Word? Do you remind her of God's promises to her and for her life?

Strong's:

From; to *make holy*, that is, (ceremonially) *purify* or *consecrate*; (mentally) to *venerate*: - hallow, be holy, sanctify.

Cleanse - *katharizō* (*kath-ar-id'-zo*)

Strong's:

From; to *cleanse* (literally or figuratively): - (make) clean (-se), purge, purify.

What do you call her? What do you say to her? How do you speak to her? Jesus taught us that we are defiled by what comes out of our mouths. We can also defile the hearers with what we allow to come out of our mouths.

Mt 15:18

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

3. Facilitate for Your Wife to Present her beautified, holy self to you

Eph 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**.*

4. Nourish, Cherish and Love Her as Your Own Body

Eph 5:28

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

Eph 5:29

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

Nourish - ektrephō (*ek-tref'-o*)

From; to *rear up* to maturity, that is, (generally) to *cherish* or *train*: - bring up, nourish.

- 1) to nourish up to maturity, to nourish
- 2) to nurture, bring up

Cherish – thalpō (*thal'-po*)

Probably akin to θάλλω thallō (to *warm*); to *brood*, that is, (figuratively) to *foster*: - cherish.

thalpō

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to warm, keep warm
- 2) to cherish with tender love, to foster with tender care

5. Render her the Affection due to her

1 Cor 7:3

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

1 Cor 7:5

Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment.

6. Honour Her

1 Pet 3:7

*Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving **honour** to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Honour - timē (*tee-may*)' From; a *value*, that is, *money* paid, or (concretely and collectively) *valuables*; by analogy **esteem** (especially of the highest degree), or the **dignity** itself: - **honour, precious, price**, some.

Parenting

The family is the primary place where God desires children to learn about unconditional love, security and the Father heart of God:

1 John 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Ps 131:2

*Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul,
Like a weaned child with his mother;
Like a weaned child is my soul within me.*

The family is where God desires that children learn about honouring authority:

Deut 5:16

Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

See also Deut 5:18 and 21.

The family is the primary place where God desires children to be disciplined:

Deut 6:6-9

⁶“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Isa 40:11

*He will feed His flock like a shepherd;
He will gather the lambs with His arm,
And carry them in His bosom,
And gently lead those who are with young.*

Prov 22:6

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

God desires children to experience discipline in the loving context of family:

Prov 22:15

*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of correction will drive it far from him.*

God is a multi-generational God. He desires that biblical values, ethics and moral code and framework be passed down from generation to generation. Our children should be stronger than us and go further than us. They should in effect stand on our shoulders. A problem that we see in scripture is that many are faithful with the call of God on their lives but are not faithful to pass on what God has entrusted to them, to their children.

Examples:

1. Judges

Judges 1-7.

Jg 2:7-19

*⁷So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. ⁸Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. ... ¹⁰When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, **another generation arose** after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. ¹¹**Then the children of Israel did evil** in the sight of the Lord, and*

served the Baals; ¹²and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. ¹³**They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.** ¹⁴And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. **So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.** ¹⁵Wherever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for calamity, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.

... ¹⁸And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. ¹⁹And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.

- The Lord raised up Othniel as deliverer. The Israelites served the Lord. Othniel died.
- The Israelites did evil in God's sight. The Moabites, Ammonites and Amalekites attacked them. They were subject to Eglon, King of Moab for 18 years. They cried out to the Lord.
- He gave them Ehud. Ehud delivered them from the Moabites. They had peace for 80 years.
- Ehud died. The Israelites did evil in God's sight. The Lord gave them over to Jabin, the Canaanite king. The Israelites were oppressed by his regime. They cried out to God. He raised up Deborah, and God used Deborah and Jael, a woman, to help deliver the Israelites from the Canaanites. Then they had peace for 40 years.
- The Israelites did evil in God's sight and He gave them over into the hands of the Midianites. The Israelites cried out to God. He gave them a deliverer – Gideon. The land had peace for 40 years.

- No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again served foreign Gods.

Are you seeing a pattern? What a travesty it would be for us to fulfill our callings in God and disciple many, but fail to disciple our own children!

2. Eli's sons

1 Sam 2:12-17

¹²Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord. ¹³Now it was the practice of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the meat was being boiled ¹⁴and would plunge the fork into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot. Whatever the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh. ¹⁵But even before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the person who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw." ¹⁶If the person said to him, "Let the fat be burned first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force." ¹⁷This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt.

1 Sam 2:22-25

²²Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ²³So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. ²⁴No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the Lord's people is not good. ²⁵If one person sins against another, God may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the Lord, who will intercede for them?" His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke...

1 Sam 3:11-14

¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. ¹²I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end. ¹³I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons

are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. ¹⁴So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings."

- We know what happens. Hophni and Phineas are killed on the same day in battle. When their father hears about it, he dies. The legacy in their family was ended.

3. Samuel's sons

1 Sam 8:1-5

¹Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. ²The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³**But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.**

⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

Some prayer items:

- Understanding and carrying the Father heart of God.
- Fathers:
 - In our own families.
 - In the church and body of Christ.
 - Father to arise in the body of Christ and the nations.
- Marriages -
 - General:
 - No weapon formed against them will prosper (*Is. 54:17*).
 - God will be wall of fire around and glory within (*Zech. 2:5*).
 - Marriage bed held in honour (*Heb. 13:4; Mt. 5:28*).
 - Wives:
 - Would be the best "ezer" or Helper for her husband (*Gen. 2:18*).

- Submit to own husband (*Eph. 5:22-24*).
- Comfort and encourage own husband (*Prov. 31:12*).
- Be affectionate towards own husband (*1 Cor. 7:3*).
- Guard heart and mouth (*Mt. 12:34-37 & 6:21; Ps 141:3; Prov. 31:26; Jn. 7:38*).
- Adorn self (*1 Pet. 3:3-5; Prov. 21:19*).

Husbands:

- Love wife (*Eph. 5:25-29*).
 - Sanctify and cleanse wife (*Eph. 5:26*).
 - Facilitate for wife to present her beautified, holy self to him (*Eph. 5:27*).
 - Nourish, cherish and love wife as own body (*Eph. 5:28-29*).
 - Render wife the affection due her (*1 Cor. 7:3,5*).
 - Honour wife (*1 Pet. 3:7*).
 - Father children.
 - Provide for family.
- Parents (in the image of God He created THEM male and female):
 - Love.
 - Wisdom to parent, teach, disciple, train, lead, love, nurture and so forth (*1 Tim. 2:4-5*).
 - Eyes to see.
 - Children:
 - Would experience Godly love, acceptance, nurturing, safety, security, training and discipleship.

An example of a blueprint that my husband and I use in assisting us build a prayer altar in our home:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Prayer topic:	Our Marriage	Children and descendants	Family and extended family	Our destiny, ministry and calling	Friends	The nation; topical national issues; national leaders	Church leaders; the church.