

The RICHES

OF GRACE

Robert W. Reed
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"hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11



*" Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:
except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."*

Psalm 127:1

There have been many attempts made today to redefine the family which are destroying our nation. The Biblical definition of marriage is criticized in our society as being old fashion and narrow. This has led to easy divorce, same-sex marriage, same-sex parenting, and immorality. The home is a foundational institution. It was established to educate, bring security, harmony, and stability to society. The home is to provide love, hope, and peace needed by men, women, and children.

"Many parents give their children everything except themselves."

- Anon.



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*" Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
Acts 16:31*

This article will focus on the three basic components that make up a family.

THE HUSBAND - THE HEAD OF THE HOME

The man was first created and also given a calling (**Genesis 2:15**). The word “husband” can be defined as mature, full grown, and responsible. A husband is to be someone that is truly a man in the Biblical sense, that is, able to provide the needs of his wife and children (**I Timothy 5:8**). Most men still act like children and are immature in many ways. But God has called husbands to be responsible and reliable. The man is also considered the head of the home in **I Corinthians 11:3,8-12**. The word head denotes leadership and authority. It also carries the thought of responsibility and accountability. It does not mean superiority, for the woman is not inferior to the man. The type is seen in the Persons of the Trinity. The Father and the Son are co-equal, yet they fulfill different roles. The Lord Jesus Christ submitted Himself to the Father so that the world could be redeemed. The husband and wife are equal in God’s eyes but have two different roles for the glory of God. Every institution, group, or organization must have a head to function properly. The husband is the leader of the family, providing both the spiritual and physical needs. We need more men today like Joshua, who knew his responsibility and carried it out. Consider his words before the other men of Israel in **Joshua 24:15**, “. . . *But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” Every husband must learn to seek God’s guidance and wisdom in the Word of God and through prayers as in **I Timothy 2:8**, “*I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*” Only by the filling of the Holy Spirit can men be the husband and father that God has called them to be (**Ephesians 5:18-33**). This awesome duty must be carefully preserved.

“A happy family is but an earlier heaven.”

- John Bowring

The Wife - The Heart of the Home

It is the wife that makes a house a home. She is called a “helpmeet” in **Genesis 2:20**, that is, she has a supportive role in the home for the glory of God. She is to help, aid, and assist her

husband in the work God has given him for the Kingdom of God. They are heirs together according to **I Peter 3:7**. She has a very special calling. As the Lord Jesus Christ submitted Himself to the Father for the sake of the redemption of humanity, she is to be in submission to her husband in God’s wonderful plan of marriage. According to **Genesis 3:16**, her desire is to be to her husband. She is to love him and follow his leadership for the Kingdom’s sake (**Ephesians 5:21-33**). The wife is to be a keeper at home according to **Titus 2:3-5**. The advice given to young women in **I Timothy 5:14** is to marry, bear children, and guide the house. This command should not be taken lightly. God has given the woman strong maternal affection that equips her for her duty. This desire is planted deep in her bosom to keep her from growing weary in her ministry. Yes, she has a ministry and a glorious one at that. Her rewards will be great in the Kingdom of God.

THE CHILDREN - THE HANDS OF THE HOME

Children are an extension of the home. It is they who will reach out beyond the home to carry on God’s work after the parents are gone. According to **Malachi 2:15**, the design of God in the family is to raise up a godly seed to serve the Lord. Malachi refers to the original creation of man and woman when God made them one flesh (**Genesis 2:24**). The Lord made them one that he might seek a Godly seed. In the family, children are to be trained to follow the Lord and carry His truths into the ends of the earth. The Lord’s original design in the family was to advance the Kingdom of God and fill the earth with righteous people, **Genesis 1:26-27**, “*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*” Families are nurseries for both church and state. It is the family that should supply them both with worthy members. This is why parents first ministry is to instruct their children in the ways of the Lord. Parents are to pass on a godly heritage to their children. Let us pray that we fail not in this divine mandate. Amen
 “Holy families must be the chief preservers of the interest of religion in the world.”
 - Richard Baxter