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The Modern Family Does Not Produce Laborers for God

Jesus Christ said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth <u>labourers</u> into his harvest." (Matthew 9: 37-38.)

Not just anyone can be a laborer for God. Imagine how absurd it would be for a butcher to ask to be a surgeon in the hospital, saying that he knows how to use a knife. There is a great difference between carving the dead and operating on the living. A surgeon requires exhaustive knowledge of the functions of living beings in order to preserve life.

Every company that needs workers posts requirements that the candidates must meet in order to work. Not just anyone is accepted. In the same way, although God needs laborers, not just anyone will be accepted to work in his harvest.

The Christian family should be producing sons and daughters with the qualities which are required to become those laborers, but unfortunately, it is not producing them. Without doubt, multitudes of religious children are coming out, but they do not possess the character qualities that God requires. Modern families are not producing workers for God because their sons do not behave like men of God, and their daughters do not behave like women of God. And in spite of this, the modern family thinks that it has discovered a better way of life.

When I used the word "modern" I am referring to the families of today. In this case the word "modern" does not imply "improved". The modern family is like an old jalopy in the junkyard that hasn't worked for years, and it can't take anybody anywhere. The modern family does not take its children to God. The motor is out of order. The tires are all flat. It's just sitting there. It's not doing what God wants it to do. Yet the modern man and woman think that God's way is old fashioned, out-of-date, and obsolete.

Every generation should be more obedient and pleasing to

God than their parents, but in very few families does this happen. A retired Christian man realized, when he saw his granddaughter with jewels in her nose and tattoos on her body, that he had failed the Lord. He recognized that he had not trained his children properly. Nevertheless, his Christian wife, who has always worked outside the home, and who, in her appearance, carries the image of the modern woman, fails to see that her daughter and granddaughter are only following her example.

Let me say from the beginning that a prerequisite for understanding this booklet is believing that the Scriptures were inspired by the Spirit of God. I would spare many readers the feelings of frustration and anger that they will experience if they read this without such a conviction. I myself would have felt offended when I ignored that the Creator of life (who designed the genetic code in all the animals and plants) also gave the wisdom to his servants to write the Bible. If you don't believe the Bible, stop reading now and save yourself the grief.

The Family Is For God

God invented the family. Let's read in Psalms 68, verse 5: "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families."

God puts the solitary people into families. There are people who feel alone, but God groups them into families. This group consists of the father, the mother, and the children. God causes them to live as a family, not as solitary individuals.

God created the first man, but God saw that the man needed something else besides just himself. God causes the solitary to live in families. Genesis 2, verse 18 says: "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

God said that he would make a helper for the man. The words "help meet" mean a helper who is fitting and proper. God designed a proper companion for the man. That helper would fit perfectly into God's plan for humanity. This was the beginning of the family. That family was exactly what God wanted, and it's still what God wants today. Without a proper family, people are lonely and solitary.

Genesis 2, verse 19 says: "And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him."

Adam was looking at the animals and naming them, but he was alone. He needed something more than the work of discovery and the work of creating a language.

Verses 21 to 24 say: "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called When Woman, because she was taken out of Man. joined, Therefore shall a man leave his father and they perform his mother, and shall cleave unto his a new function: wife: and they shall be one flesh." **Raising children!**

One husband

One wife

Here we see how God invented the family in the beginning. God caused the solitary man to live in a family. From that day until the present, children have been born into families. The family is the perfect environment in which children can grow and mature. Unfortunately, some children are orphans. It would be far better for every child to be raised in a family. God causes the solitary to dwell in families.

God's thoughts about the family are superior to the modern thoughts about the family. Modern pressures are changing the family. Modern society is disassembling the family and breaking it apart. God wants the man, the woman, and the children to be together, live together, work together, read the Bible together, pray together, eat together, and do almost everything together. In that togetherness the children are being prepared for God.

The modern family does not produce children for God because it has lost its togetherness. What does the man do in the morning? He disappears from the house on his way to work. A few minutes later what happens to the children? They disappear on their way to school. Then the woman? She too disappears, often leaving any babies in day care, while she either goes to work, attends some social function, or wanders from house to house. Everyone is seeking money and entertainment, and as a result, the family is divided up. For thousands of years the love of money and the love of pleasure have eroded that fertile field which is the family.

However, there have always been faithful men and women who have understood God's plan for the family. Jesus was brought up with Joseph the carpenter, and Jesus also learned to be a carpenter. That family is an example





and the family was not divided into its constituent parts. Many families today do the same, believing that participating in God's original plan for the family is more important than enjoying the pleasures of a godless society for a few years.

In modern times, there have been changes in the world which have further destroyed the families that were not sober and watchful. Men began to invent machines that were powered by steam or electricity, and they began to build factories. The men had to go to work where the machines had been constructed. To protect the children from the dangerous working environment, laws were passed to keep children out of the factories. The men went to work in the factory, but the children could not go to the factory. Now the children could not go with their fathers and learn to work. This process, called the Industrial Revolution, began about eight generations ago.

Because of the industrial society in which we live, the man

has been removed from his family for the entire day. He's with his family for a few minutes in the morning, and for a few more minutes at the end of the day. Many times he's not even with them then, because he's with his friends. Consequently, the man is usually absent from his family.

Then the Educational Revolution came along. In ancient times there were no public schools. Most children stayed with their parents, and as they matured, they learned skills. But today, when the child is only five years old, he leaves his house. For a good part of the day he's with other little children like himself, and with a teacher who is not his mother. That child is going to learn to be like the peer group, not like his parents. For that reason the modern family cannot produce children for God. It produces children who are copies of the other children in the school. Even though they go to church, they are not very different from the other children at school. When they're in church, they may seem to be different, but when they go out into the street, their little hearts are practically identical to the hearts of the other children in the street. Why? Because instead of being raised in a family, they are being raised in a school, surrounded by other children. Instead of maturing, they are learning childish words, childish mischief, and childish thinking. This is a concentration of immaturity, not a family.

God created the family in order to train children for him, but the devil doesn't want the children to be for God. The devil tries to tear the family apart, because he knows that God created the family to teach people to fear God. When the world separates the individuals from the family, those individuals learn how to make money, but they don't learn how to please God. In school the children learn how to be "cool" in order to please their peer group, but they do not learn how to please God.

So let each parent decide what is more important. If the important thing in life is to earn money and to become like the world, then let the children leave their parents and go to school. Let them graduate, become a gear in the world's machinery, and the world will provide their yearly salary and retirement. This is what the world does, and most Christians do the same. As a result the young people are losing their faith in God.

On the other hand, if the important thing in life is to please God, then let the children stay with their parents in a family which serves God. Let them seek first the righteousness which pleases God, and God will provide their daily bread and opportunities to serve. Instead of "retirement", God promises "resurrection".

Jesus warned, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world,



and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for

The Modern Woman Abandons her Home

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his soul?" (Matthew 16:26.)

God's ways are higher than man's ways. God set the solitary in "families", not in schools. God intends for parents to train their children in an orderly family, not send them away to group activities where they will learn foolishness.

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Church meetings occupy only four to six hours a week; a child needs much more training than this. In the modern family the children

are sent away to the world, but in the

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prudent family, the children are being formed and molded all week long. There they are being taught to be a generation which is different from the rest of the people.

The Industrial Revolution took the man out of the home. The Educational Revolution then took the children out of the home and sent them to their respective schools. After that came the Feminist Revolution, in which the woman left her home to seek a place in the industrial system, the educational system, or the government. The place of the woman is now at the school, the office, the hospital, or the cash register. Instead of learning to be keepers at home, the women have gone out to learn to be men. Young women don't want to learn from older women; they want to learn from men. They want to dedicate their lives to some profession other than the family.

Ironically, with so many labor-saving devices at their disposal, modern men and women spend less time with their children than ever before. The women have abandoned their special calling as wives and mothers, and dedicated their lives to a profession. The children of that kind of women are not going to be for God; they're going to be for the world, and for the money-making system. These women are not doing what Mary (the mother of Jesus) did as a married woman. They are not following the example of the holy women of the Bible.

Abraham was called by God to live the life of a pilgrim and wanderer in this world. His wife's name was Sarah. She dedicated her life to her family and her son Isaac. For this reason the God of Abraham became the God of Isaac. What Abraham had learned was passed on to Isaac. Without Sarah, Abraham never could have become the father of many nations. Isaac was not "socialized" and turned over to the world. He was kept at home with Mama Sarah during all of his childhood and all of his youth. Then his parents decided that he should not marry one of the heathen girls because that would spoil his training. So they sent one of their servants to a faraway land to seek a wife for Isaac among their relatives. They did not want him to become like the pagan world. They wanted Isaac to be a son for God. In the godly family, "laborers" are prepared for God.

The modern family does not produce sons for God, but rather sons for social functions and religious traditions. Many modern children are religious: they know how to sing, they know how to say the right words, they know how to make the right motions. But they do not know how to live a holy life and be a people who are different from the rest of the world. When they go out into the street, they behave the same as the world.

Recently, when I went with a friend to the town square, I began to talk with a group of youngsters there. One of those boys was the son of a Christian family, but his way of expressing himself was identical to the other boys. He told me that he attended the public school, and it was easy to see what the school had done to him: he looked and sounded like all the rest of the boys. Such children are not receiving an adequate preparation to become the laborers which God needs.

Who is left at home after all these social revolutions? After the men, the women, and the children have left, the only one that remains is the dog. I dare to suggest that it's more important for the children to be at home than for the dog to be there. Many people say that the dog has to be there to guard the house, but

The dog stays home.

where, oh where is the voice of reason? Doesn't the child's soul need to be guarded? Doesn't anyone understand that the child's soul must be guarded more than a house? The mother needs to be at home if she hopes to guard her children.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23.)

God invented the family.

Every member of the family is important, but not all of them have the same function. First Corinthians chapter 11, verse 3, says: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

Note that the family has structure like a building. There is a foundation underneath a building. There are walls on top of the foundation. There are beams on top of the walls, and finally there are sheets of roofing on top of the beams. Likewise, the family has structure. We just read that Christ is the head of every man. It doesn't say that the priest is the head of every man. It doesn't say that the boss is the head of every man. It doesn't say that the scientists are the head of every man. We should notice that Christ is the head of every man.

This structure has been destroyed, and another structure erected in its place. Human leaders have inserted themselves into the structure and said, "No. The man should not go to Christ; he needs to come to us instead." Instead of going to Christ, modern men go to the experts for instruction and direction. Instead of going to their husbands, modern women go to the experts for instruction and counsel. These experts are religious, scientific, financial, and medical.

The Bible says that Jesus is the head of every man. *Every* man. And the man is the head of the woman. This is surprising, because it does not say that the experts are the head of anyone. Neither does it say that Christ is the head of the woman. God has designed a structure in which the husband is the head of his wife. He is to support and lead his wife in the same way that Christ supports and leads the church.

The Godly Woman

We want to speak to the women now. Later we will speak to the men. God made the woman for a particular function in his creation. He did not make her to be a man. She may act like a man and accomplish many things, but nevertheless, God did not create her to function like that. He has something more important for her to do. God created her to be the proper helper for her husband, and to be the mother of all the children. If that seems unimportant to you, you do not have the mind of Christ.

God created women to be mothers, not to be imitators of men. He did not restrict women to some less important menial work. The woman's function is just as vital as the man's in God's

> plan for humanity. No man can do what a woman can do, and when she abandons her calling, God's plan for the human race must necessarily fail. Satan knows this, and does all within his diabolical power to deceive women, and to persuade them to be like men. If the woman abandons the will of God for her, her children will not be properly trained for God.

Let's look at Ephesians 5, verses 22 to 24: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."

> Here it says that the woman should submit herself to her husband's will, as if she were submitting to the Lord. Modern women do not want to submit to their husbands. Society has persuaded them that to do so would be a form of slavery. And for this reason the modern family cannot produce

The modern woman

wants to

imitate men.

children with the qualities that God requires for his "laborers".

One day a young woman and her four small children were checking out at the supermarket. The woman cashier commented: "It looks like you have your hands full!" Looking at the line of people waiting to check out, the young woman responded, "You look like the one whose hands are full!"

I ask you: Could anything be more boring than doing the same thing over and over for eight hours, every day of the week? A mother who serves God in her home has a constant variety of experiences within her family, but the modern woman has become the slave of an economic master.

The modern woman submits to her boss, but not to her husband. In this respect she is not a good example for her children. If her sons imitate her, they will not know how to submit to God. If her daughters imitate her, they will not know how to submit to their husbands.

Submission is a divine art. The godly woman will submit herself to the will of her husband. Many a husband is not even a Christian, but his wife's submission to him shows him how he must submit to Christ. When the woman submits herself, as the Bible commands, her submission is the pry bar which provides the leverage needed to lift that husband from the pit of unbelief to the level ground of faith in Christ. If she knows how to submit herself to her husband's will, instead of trying to take his place, she will exert a powerful force on him, and her children will learn from her how to submit to God, and thus be the "righteous" people whose prayers have power with God.

The way for a woman to win her husband to Christ is to be in submission to him. The world does not teach women how to act like godly women. It teaches them how to act like men. In the schools, girls are not taught to be godly women, but to be men. The girls are taught to think like men, earn money like men, speak like men, march like men, and compete with men. Since the world doesn't know the truth, it can't teach the truth. The truth for women is as simple as this: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your

own husbands, as unto the Lord."

Let's look in First Peter chapter 3, verse 1. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to husbands: vour own that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear."

It clearly says here that if the woman will submit to her husband, she can win her husband. He will be won without words if her conduct is "chaste and coupled with fear". The word "fear" in this case means "proper respect of authority". The woman needs to be chaste and respectful.

The word "chaste"

isn't used much in

schools anymore.

We need to remember these two key words: CHASTE and RESPECTFUL. The word "chaste" isn't used very much anymore in the schools. Do you know why? Because the educators who control the schools don't want women to know what this word means. There are many words from the Bible which the schools do not teach anymore because the experts don't want them to be known.

This word "chaste" means a woman's awareness that she is reserved for only one man. Before she is married, she keeps herself pure for that man who will someday be her husband. The modern custom of dating is not compatible with being chaste. The chaste woman does not want to be familiar with many young men. She doesn't want to attract their attention. During her youth she is under her father's authority, and when she marries, she will be under her husband's authority. She has to learn to be respectful, chaste, and faithful to that one man. She has to be meek, which means submissive to authority, even as Jesus called himself The ways of God have more power than the ways of men. "meek" because he was submitted to his Father's authority.

When Christian women learn to be chaste, they are not going to seek friendship with the world. They are going to seek true com-

munion with their husband. They are going to seek to please only him. They are not going to try to impress anybody else.

When a man is not a believer, but rather a sinner, and he sees that his wife keeps herself only for him, her attitude will have the effect of a hammer pounding on a nail. We could have a nail sticking into a board here, and it would hurt to hit it with our hand. When a woman is living a chaste and respectful life, her conduct is like a hammer that drives in the nail. The power of God will convict her husband and bring him to faith in Christ.

The ways of God have more power than the ways of man. The modern woman tries to win the man by fixing herself up and making herself attractive and desirable. That is just the opposite from being chaste. The Bible says that Christian women should *NOT* fix themselves up and make themselves beautiful in order to win their husbands. That is the way the world does it.

God's way is different. Let's look again in First Peter, chapter 3. After Peter speaks about being chaste and respectful in verse 2, he explains what he means by this in the next verse: "Whose adorning let it NOT be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

I'm going to tell you why it won't work when the woman tries to fix herself up in order to try to win her husband. When she tries to make herself attractive, she'll attract ten men, not just one. Ask yourself this question: when do women usually fix themselves up? When they're at home, or when they go out? We all know that women fix themselves up and make themselves attractive when they go out. So it's not really for her husband that she's fixing herself up. She's fixing herself up for the world in general, to be seen by the world. And that's why fixing herself up on the outside is not the thing that wins the heart of her husband.

The thing that will win him is the chaste and respectful behavior of his wife. Look what Peter is saying in this verse. He's telling women *not* to fix themselves up. He says, "whose adorning let it NOT be the outward adorning of plaiting hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel."

You see, she is trying to be seen of men. Jesus teaches that when we do things to be seen of men, we will not receive a reward from God.

The spirit of the word "chaste" is just the opposite of trying to be seen of men. The chaste woman does NOT want to be seen of men. A chaste woman does not want to be seen in a swimming suit at the swimming pool. She doesn't want to show her body to the whole world. A chaste woman does not want to go to places like that. The chaste woman does not want men to be looking at her, because she knows that the thoughts of men in this world are evil. A woman who tries to make herself beautiful is only going to cause more evil thoughts in those kind of men. For this reason Peter says that it's better for a woman not to seek outer adornments: beautiful hair styles, shiny jewelry, or beautiful dresses. On the other hand, Peter says that the woman should seek inner beauty, of the heart. Peter calls this kind of beauty "that which is not corruptible", the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. The outer beauty is corruptible, and can awaken evil thoughts in others, but the inner beauty is incorruptible.

The woman should not try to be accepted because of her outward beauty. That will not produce men for God, nor will it produce children for God. She should try to seek a meek and quiet spirit. What do the words "meek and quiet" mean? A meek and quiet spirit does not mean the same thing as a friendly spirit. Being friendly is certainly a good quality. The Bible says we should show ourselves friendly. Being friendly refers to our openness, warmth, and kindness with other people. Being "meek and quiet", on the other hand, refers to our humble attitude toward an authority. This refers to not resisting the authority, not getting angry, not complaining, not criticizing, and not whining.



Some time ago, a lit-

tle girl was walking around without her shoes on. She liked to go barefoot. Someone was putting her socks and shoes on her, and she began to whine and fuss. She was not acting in a "meek and quiet" manner. She was not accepting the authority over her. Her mother was saying, "Listen, you have to put these on." But she was whining and resisting.

In the same way that children resist their parents' authority, wives also resist their husband's authority. When a wife is whining, she doesn't do it the same way that a child does it. Women have their own way of expressing their complaints. At times women feel very happy and content, but when they want their own way, they have their way of resisting their husband's authority.

Women do not need seminars to learn how to fix themselves up more on the outside. They need to be more submissive to their husbands, because God put their husband over them. The Bible says, "the head of the woman is the man". The woman who learns to submit to her husband will have a tremendous influence in his life. That husband will not be able to resist God's mighty power. God uses the meek and quiet spirit. The word "quiet" means peaceful and confident, not contentious, noisy, or fearful.

Proverbs 27: 15 says, "A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind."

Trying to contain a contentious woman, trying to satisfy her, is like trying to contain the wind. How can you control the wind? With a horse's bridle? With a ship's rudder? It's impossible. The contentious woman will not submit herself. She will do her own will. Perhaps she knows how to act graciously and courteously at times, but she also knows how to get her own way. She struggles to maintain control.

There are always new ways to resist authority. Three little girls wanted to go to the store. First their mother told them no. Then they came to their father, and they said, "Daddy, may we go to the store?" But he was suspicious. He asked them, "Did Mommy already say no?" One of them said, "Yes."

He asked, "Well, if she said no, why are you asking me?" The child said, "She didn't tell ME no, she told my sister no." So you see, the business of resisting authority gets pretty complicated. Instead of trying to submit themselves to authority, the children were trying to resist authority using group tactics.

Children who do not learn to submit themselves to their parents' authority will not submit themselves to God's authority. In the modern family the children are not learning how to be adults who fear God. Rather they are learning how to whine and how to deceive. Rebellious children are learning how to be like their rebellious mothers. The children are watching their mothers. They watch how mother acts when she wants her own way. They imitate it.

The passage that we read in First Peter, chapter 3, says that women should have a "meek and quiet spirit". Peter adds, "which is in the sight of God of great price." Then he says that the holy women in ancient times knew how to behave this way as they waited upon God and were submissive to their husbands. I like this phrase "waited upon God". Those holy women knew how to

A quiet woman is wait on God. They not afraid if her knew how to wait for husband God's help in every makes an situation. They were amazingly not trying to control stupid everything themdecision. selves. They did not try to be men. Sarah accepted her position as a woman, and submitted herself to her husband Abraham.

One time her husband told some strangers that she was his sister, and as a result, she was taken away to the king's palace to be one of his wives! That did not seem right! Nevertheless, Sarah waited upon God, who is the only one who could deliver her from the consequences of her husband's wrong decision. Sarah said "Yes Lord" to her husband. She put her faith in God, and was not desperate. There is a God in heaven who is righteous and who is much more powerful than any man, and because of God's intervention, the king was not able to touch Sarah. God sent plagues to the land, and the king never had time to touch that woman. Sarah could submit herself to her husband Abraham because she knew how to trust God.

First Peter 3, verse 6 says: "Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement."

Look at the phrase "and are not *afraid* with any amazement". What does fear do? It causes us to lose control. Everything is going along all right, when suddenly a threat causes us to fear, and we lose our balance. But the woman who trusts God is not afraid with any amazement. That is, she is not made afraid by any threat. She is trusting God and so is not afraid. A woman like this is going to raise children for God, and her children will be great in stature before the Lord.

There you have the example of Mary, the mother of Jesus. What kind of woman was she that God would have told her that she would be the most blessed of all women? She was a chaste and respectful woman. She was meek and quiet, she waited on God, and she was not afraid.

The Roman Catholics honour Mary for the wrong reason. Rather than honoring her for her godly character, exemplary attitudes as a woman, and her important part in the training of her child Jesus in this world, the Catholics esteem her because they believe she intercedes for them in prayer before God. The Bible does not mention that she intercedes for us. The Bible doesn't say that she intercedes for sinners.

One time I picked up a stranger who was hitchhiking close to our hometown. When this man found out that I was not a Catholic, he accused me of not honoring the Virgin Mary. I had a question for him. I asked him if he thought that Mary smoked cigarettes. I could see a pack of cigarettes in his shirt pocket. No no no, he replied; she did not smoke! Then I asked him whether those who believe in the Virgin Mary should smoke or not smoke. He didn't know what to say. Then I asked him if he thought that the Virgin Mary went to the dances. When the music began, did she get up and dance around? No no no, he replied. Well then, I said, who are the ones who really believe in her? The ones who smoke or the ones who don't smoke? The ones who go to dances or the ones who don't go to dances?

I kindly explained to this man that I do believe in the virtuous life of Mary, although I don't believe that she intercedes for sinners. Women should live the way that she lived. Many people, who say that they believe in the Virgin, don't try to follow her example. They don't try to live as she lived. They don't respect her and they don't obey her. Mary became the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit, and she was the woman that God selected from among all of women. What kind of a woman do you think she was to be chosen from among all the women of Israel? Wouldn't it be good for all Christian women to be like Mary? I'm sure that when she was married, she had the same chaste and respectful attitude toward her husband that God had seen in her when she was a single woman.

The Bible says that the women have left their original calling and have started to act like men. They dedicate their lives to make money. Instead of dedicating themselves to raising a family, they dedicate themselves to a profession. And their children? Nobody knows where they are. They are maybe in front of the television, or in the street, or in school, learning that there is no God. Who knows where they are? But they're not with their mother. That is why their families cannot produce children for God.

The Godly Man

At the beginning of this booklet, we were considering why the modern family cannot produce children for God. We saw that the modern family is like a broken down car that can't take anyone anywhere. Here in the house of a neighbor I saw a car up on blocks that has no wheels and no motor. That car cannot give any

The Man must respect his head. who is Christ.

service to anyone, and the families of today are in the same condition. They are like a car that has no wheels and no motor, and they cannot produce children with the qualities that God needs. They can only produce children for perdition, that is, who live sinful lives.

We have read that God causes the solitary people to live in families. In Psalm 68: 5 we saw that God causes the lonely ones to live in families. God invented the family in the beginning of the world. He created the man and the woman, he created their proper relationship, that is, how they should relate to one another.

Likewise, God created a special song for each species of bird to sing. All the robins sing the same song. All the bluebirds sing the same song. God put the song in each bird. God also put into the man and the woman the proper life that they should live, but they have traded it for vanity. God invented the family, but men have abandoned it, and invented new institutions. That is why their families cannot produce children whom God can use.

I want to speak to the men now because God placed the man as the head of the family. We have already seen that God placed a head over the woman, which is her husband. In First Peter chapter 3 we saw that the woman must be chaste and respectful of her husband's authority. She must be meek, which does not refer to having a charming personality, but to being submissive to her husband. The word "meek" is the same word which is translated "meek" in "Blessed are the meek..." (Matthew 5:5.) It signifies submissive, not contentious, not rebellious, not whining. She must also be "quiet", which means that she waits on God, and is not afraid of any threat.

The woman should recognize her head. First Corinthians 11: 3 says: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

The man is the head of the woman, but he also has a head. Even as the woman has to respect her husband, who is her head, so also the man has to respect Christ, who is his head. We have just read the verse which says, "But I would have you know, that *the head of every man is Christ.*" The man wants his wife to be submissive, but he too must be submissive to his head, who is Christ. He must be faithful and obedient.

The typical modern man is not a faithful man, because he is not submitted to Christ. Instead of submitting to Christ, he submits to his friends, to his own desires, to economic pressures, to alcoholic beverages, and to many other things. Having submitted himself to such things, modern man cannot produce children for God.

His children are going to be like him. Since the man does

not submit to Christ, his children will not either. If we want our children to submit to God, we ourselves must submit to God. Christ said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matthew 11, verses 28 and 29.)

The man who refuses to come to Christ, and who does not learn from him and does not submit himself to Christ's teachings — such a man will not be useful to God. That man will be learning from someone else, and that someone else will be none other than the prince of darkness. His children will do the same.

Let's look in Ephesians chapter five, verse 23: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

Christ Jesus is now the head of the church, but when he was born in Bethlehem, he was a little child, and he was not yet the head of the church. He was just a little boy. Before he became the head of the church, he had to do many things. First he had to live a life of service. He also had to preach the word and visit the poor and heal the sick. Then he had to give his life, shed his blood, and rise from

Jesus was not the head of the church when he was born. First he had to complete a task.

the dead. The boy Jesus was not yet the head of the church. He had not yet done the things that were necessary in order to become the head of the people who are called "the church".

Men cannot say to their wives, "I am your head", if they have not done for her much of what Christ did for his people, the church. Jesus had to suffer first, humbling himself, and doing many things to help the people. After Jesus died and rose from the dead, the heavenly Father gave him a name which was above every name. Now he truly deserves to be the head of the church.

Many men say to their wife, "Now listen here, I am the head around here. Since Christ is the head of the church, I am the head of you, my wife." But have those men done the things which need to be done to deserve to be the head of their wife? This is another reason why the modern family cannot raise sons for God. Modern men are not doing what Christ did.

We have already seen Ephesians 5:23, that the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. But Jesus was not born as the head; first he had to dedicate himself to a task. He had to humble himself to serve the people so that he could be called the head of his people.

Let's look at the next verse, at verse 25: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

Probably most husbands have not loved their wives the way that Christ loved the church. They had not given their lives for their wives. We need to confess to the Lord that we have failed, and ask his help in order to be able to love our wives the same way that Christ loved the church.

Let's look at Philippians chapter 2, verse 5. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."

Here we see what a man has to do if he really wants to be the head of his wife. In the first place, Christ left something. He had to leave something in order to come and be the head of the church. Before coming, Christ was in heaven. The Bible says that all things were made by him. He was in the beginning, he was called the Word of God. He created all things, and without him no part of the creation was made. The Word came to the earth and became the man Jesus. This is the one who existed before the foundation of the world, and was with God and was God. And he had to leave all that in order to come and humble himself, to take the form of a servant, and to be made in the form of man. All this in order that he could become the head of his people.

He had to leave his glory. He had to leave his privileges. He did not esteem his heavenly glory, being in the form of God, as something to hold on to, but he made himself of no reputation.

Modern man wants his liberty and wants to live as though he were single even after he's married. He wants to keep his pleasures and his sports. When he finds a girlfriend, he invites her to marry him, and he says, "Let's go get married." But he has no intention of leaving anything. He doesn't leave any high position or privileges. He doesn't even leave any of his vices. He does no more than take his new wife and add her to his previous life. He stays in the same profession, keeps his possessions, and keeps his pastimes.

He just wants to take the woman and put her in a corner of his life. So he puts her there, and now the modern man says he has a wife. He thinks the woman is a possession of his. He takes her and he puts her there, but he's not going to leave anything for her sake. If his life had involved chasing many women, he will continue chasing many women. If his life had involved many vices, he will continue practicing those vices. If his life had been one of working extra hours and hardly ever being at home, it will continue to be. If his life had involved much traveling, he will continue traveling. He will continue business as usual. When children are born someday, he will put them into a different corner, and continue his former lifestyle.

The modern man does not think that he has to lay down his life for his wife. He does not think that he has to abandon anything to become the head of his wife. The man thinks he is the head by definition.

Christian men follow the world's way of thinking about



their wives. Christian men do not consider that they have to do what Christ did. Christ loved the church, and he gave himself for her. He made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant, being made like mortal man. Mankind was living in sin, so Christ left heaven, left his throne, left his freedom, left his glory, and came to be made like sinful man. He was born in a stable and he was laid in a manger. He had to feel cold, he had to feel hunger, he had to put up with threats and violence and all the things that are in this world. He had to experience it all. He had not experienced these things before.

One day I understood what Christ had done for me. When I understood Christ's love, it caused me to love him in return. I saw all that he left for me. I saw that he left an existence millions of times better than the life here on earth. When I saw this, it caused love and admiration to spring out of my heart. I cried, "I want to be yours. I want to be one of your disciples!" Now I gladly serve him with all my heart.

That's why Christ humbled himself. He humbled himself to win the hearts of people like you and me. Before I knew that Christ had humbled himself, I had seen images of Christ, and I had heard stories about him. But I did not know that he had given himself for me. When I realized who Jesus was, and what he had left for me, I thought: this is the most amazing thing I've ever heard! This man is *different*! This man is better than I am. I want to give my life to him. He speaks the truth. He left his privileges and glory, being obedient unto death, even such a painful death. Being crucified, he did not open his mouth. He behaved like a sheep being sheared and made no noise. He was crucified between two thieves, and he was cursed by the people. They drove nails into his hands and crucified him, and he never spoke a word against them.

My realization of Christ's excellence and incomparability caused me to make him my head. He did not force me to serve him. He was not like an earthly king whose soldiers make everyone bow the knee. I voluntarily bowed the knee to the Son of God. Now I *want* to serve him. In this way Jesus became the "head" over this little piece of his church, which is my heart.

A man must thus win his wife's heart in order to be her "head". There are many things that a man can do for his wife. I believe that the man, as head of his family, should always remember that Jesus left his glory. Then he should ask himself: What am I going to leave for my wife? What am I going to leave in order



to love my wife, and to help her carry her load? She is the weaker vessel. What am I going to put up with for her sake? What can I do so that she has more liberty? Jesus left his glory, but sometimes we don't even want to get up out of bed.

Another thing that Jesus did: he came teaching good news. He came teaching the Word of truth to the people. Jesus taught the people how God wanted things done. In the same way, men should teach their wives the words of truth.

We have a friend named Carlos. When Carlos was a young man, he promised to marry a young lady who was living in Colombia, South America. Carlos left for the United States, where he went to study. He was gone for five years. His girlfriend was waiting for him all that time. After five years, Carlos returned to South America. He went to his girlfriend's house, and there she was waiting for him. She told me that one of the first things that Carlos did was to ask if he could go into her bedroom and check her wardrobe. Of course she agreed. As he looked through her dresses, he found one and said, "I don't like this dress." It was pretty, and she wondered why he didn't like it. He said that it wasn't very modest. Soon he found another dress that he didn't like, then another and another. She took the dresses that he didn't like and set them aside. Her sisters liked this very much because they were getting those dresses for themselves. Carlos also found some women's slacks, and he told her that he didn't want her to wear pants. When Carlos was done, his girlfriend hardly had any dresses left, but her new wardrobe was going to be pleasing to her fiance. Since she knew that he loved her, she was willing to have him teach her.

That's the way it is with Jesus Christ's teaching. He says, "I don't want you to do such and such."

"Okay," we respond, "Then we won't do it."

He says he doesn't want us to be like the people in the world.

"Okay, then we won't."

He said that we should forgive people not just 7 times, but 490 times (70 times 7).

"Okay," we say, "Then we will forgive them that many times!"

He does not want us to fight, and he wants us to forgive our enemies.

"Okay," we reply, "then that is what we're going to do."

He does not want married people to get divorced. He wants people to stay married once they have made that promise.

"Okay," we answer, "then we will obey."

The Lord teaches us all his preferences through his Word. He lets us know all that he desires for our lives. The Bible says that he "washes us with water by the word". He teaches us the things that are pleasing to him.

Jesus also came healing sicknesses and removing those torments that were afflicting his church. He cast out demons. He raised the paralyzed. He cleansed the lepers who were rejected by society. The Lord was casting out the works of the devil from his church: sicknesses, sins, and demons. The Lord was cleansing his people, freeing them, and at the same time teaching them the

God saw that Abraham was different from other men.



Word. It would be good for every man to do the same for his wife. Every man should teach her the Word of God. He should understand the things that torment her, and pray for her in order to free her from those torments.

I give thanks to God for my wife. When she has fears and problems, she comes and tells me, and asks me to pray for her. I feel that it's a privilege that she comes to me and doesn't go to someone else. I feel it is a great privilege and honour that she asks me for help. Often she asks me for counsel, wondering what she should do in a certain situation. My job is to show her what the Bible says about it. Every man should also consider it a privilege to teach his wife, even as Christ teaches the church.

God saw that Abraham was a man of faith, a man who trusted in God, a man who did not doubt. When God told him to do something, Abraham would do it right away. God had told Abraham to leave his homeland, so Abraham left immediately . Through the course of Abraham's life, he allowed God to direct him. Abraham was a man of faith, which means that he let himself be directed by God. Sometimes Abraham did things that were not correct, but God would guide him back into the right paths.

God gave Abraham a promise: he told him, "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies." (Genesis 22: 17.)

Why did God make such huge promises to Abraham? There were many other men living at that time. Why Abraham? Here in Genesis 18, verse 17, we can read the reason. It is because God knows all things, and God knew what kind of a man Abraham was. It says here: "And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." God knew that Abraham was really a man who obeyed the truth, who knew God, and who was going to teach that truth to his children. The Lord said

> that Abraham was going to teach his children to keep "the way of the Lord." What is the "way of the Lord"? It is to believe what God says and to obey every Word of God. God

said that he knew this man, and because Abraham was

faithful, God was going to reveal to him what he was about to do.

God knew that Abraham

would teach his children

the truth. The sons of

Abraham do the same.

God asks that men love him, and teach their children. This commandment of God is found in Deuteronomy 6, verse 4. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

This is what God asks of man. God wants men to be like Abraham, who taught his son the way of God.

In the New Testament, Ephesians 6, verse 4 contains another commandment of God for the dads. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

How many of you fathers are obeying this commandment? God is telling us that we have to teach our children "the way of the LORD", which is called here "the admonition of the Lord". We have to teach our children every day when we get up in the morning, when we lie down every evening, through the course of the day, when we are seated in our house, or walking by the way, or working. Every possible moment we need to be teaching our children by word and example. This is worth more to God than earning a thousand dollars a day. It is better to be a man who doesn't earn much money, but teaches his children the Bible. A man who teaches the "way of the LORD" to his children is a true "son of Abraham" from God's point of view. That is a REAL follower of Jesus. Following Jesus has little to do with earning money; the way of Jesus has much to do with loving God and keeping his commandments. The way of Jesus has to do with hearing the Word of God and doing it.

Why did Jesus know the Bible perfectly when he was 12 years old? Because as a boy he had been taught by his earthly parents. Even though he was the eternal God, he had limited himself to the form of "man". In coming to earth, he had taken upon himself the ignorance of a newborn baby. Like all boys, he needed to learn to speak and to know the Scriptures. Jesus knew all of the Word of God at the age of twelve because he lived with parents who feared God and took seriously the commandment to teach the children. This family believed the promises of God, and this home produced a young man whose name was Jesus of Nazareth. Another godly home produced John the Baptist. In homes where the Word of God has the highest priority, men and women whom God can use are produced.

Jesus went around teaching the Word of God. He did not come to give knowledge of electricity, although we are all happy for the discovery of electricity.

When I was studying chemistry at the University of Chicago, I was in a large classroom one day, and a professor was filling up the blackboard with chemical formulas. I was writing it all down when a thought came to me. The thought said: "Do you want to dedicate your life to what is written on that blackboard?"

As I sat in that classroom, I thought: "Yes, that's why I'm studying here at the university."



To what do you want to dedicate your life?

Then a second thought came into my mind which said: "Jesus Christ did not dedicate his life to what's written on that blackboard."

I thought: "That's right. What did Jesus dedicate his life to?"

If Jesus didn't dedicate his life to chemistry or to politics or to business or to the military, what did he dedicate his life to? The Word of God! And the Word of God is worth more than all those other things because the eternal life of man comes from hearing and believing the Word of God. The Word of God is so important that if the child does not have shoes, but has the Word of God, he can please God and receive eternal life. On the other hand, if the child lives in a beautiful house, but does not know the Word of God, what is he profited?

For this reason the modern family is not producing children that God can use, because their children are practically ignorant of the Word of God. And that is true in spite of the fact that many of them have gone to Sunday school almost their whole life. They don't understand the basic doctrines of the Bible. They know many Bible stories, and that is good. They could possibly recite the basic doctrines, but they do not have real understanding of those doctrines. They know more about the names of sports heroes than they do the names of the apostles of Jesus. They know more about the actors on television than they know about the men of faith in the Bible. They know more about the subjects which are taught in school than they know about the truth which Jesus came to teach to the world.

Modern children have not been prepared for God. They are being prepared for someone else: for the "beast". The Bible says that in the last times a powerful man is going to deceive and rule the entire world. The apostle Paul calls him "the man of sin, the son of perdition" (in Second Thessalonians 2, verse 3). There will also appear a false prophet at the same time who will make an "image that speaks" (Revelation 13:15). The image will deceive the entire world, forcing everyone to receive a mark of allegiance to the "beast". The "image that speaks" has already arrived. It is the only image that has been able to speak in all of history. It is called the television. It is an "image" of the "beast" in the sense that it shows images of the violent, proud, blasphemous, perverse, and bestial nature of the very devil, and it causes people to love that behavior and to imitate it.

The children of today are being trained to be part of the system of the "beast" rather than a part of the kingdom of the "lamb". The message of the Bible gives eternal life. The message of the world only leads to eternal darkness.

For this reason we need to learn to prepare our children for God, so that they will not be conformed to this lost world, but transformed by the renewing of their minds. From the time that they are little, they need to learn and understand all the precepts, the testimonies, and the grace of God which came by Jesus Christ. The words of the apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit, but the words which the world teaches are not inspired by Him.

Why send our children to study worldly wisdom six hours a day, and not even dedicate six minutes a day to study the Bible? Do you know why? Because modern men are not following Jesus. They are not following the apostles. They are not being built on the foundation of the prophets and the apostles, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone. They are building their lives on sand, not on the rock. So they will not be able to stand in the final judgment.

Will you follow modern men, or will you follow Jesus Christ? Will you prepare your children for the Lord's purposes, or will you prepare them for the world's enterprises and riches?

Make the comparison, and then choose between the kingdom of human riches and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Compare the height of the highest skyscraper to the low-est star.

Compare the complexity of man's machines to the complexity of the simplest living cell.

Compare the diversity of merchandise in the biggest superstore to the diversity of lifeforms which fill the earth.

Compare the destination of "Decomposing with Death in the grave" to "Reigning with Christ in his throne".

Compare the arrogance of earthly kings to the humble self-sacrifice of Jesus.

You must choose whom you will follow. Jesus said: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew chapter 6, verse 24.)

The whole world is serving the power of "mammon", which signifies "riches". Will you go with them? Do you believe that modern men and women know more about successful family living than Jesus Christ?

If you choose to follow Christ, don't expect the world to help you. Don't follow their worldly methods. Don't imitate modern families. Recognize that modern culture is largely antagonistic to the truth. "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven..." (Revelation 18: 4-5.)

Be an example of purity and truth to your children. Teach them the Word of God. Prepare them so that they have the understanding and character that the Lord requires in his laborers.