

# Creating Godly Families – March 25-27, 2022

	<i>page</i>
<b>Friday, 7:00 PM – Origin of the Family: Eden and the Fall</b> (All)	2
A study of the first family before and after the Fall, examining: 1) the "very good" nature and purpose of mankind and the complementary character and roles for men and women, and 2) the events of the Fall, including God's curses on mankind and the creation and the consequences on society generally and the family specifically.	
<b>Saturday, 9:30 AM – Male Temperament and Assigned Roles</b> (Men)	4
An examination of: 1) differences in male/female temperaments, based on scripture and observation, 2) the unique temptations faced by males in a fallen world, and 3) God's role assignments for men and the associated character requirements. Includes a self-assessment exercise.	
<b>Saturday, 10:30 – God's Pattern of Fatherhood</b> (Men)	7
A study of the Bible's instructions to fathers as well as the descriptions of our ideal Father, God Himself, to create a list of desired character and abilities to which human fathers must aspire. Includes a self-assessment exercise.	
<b>Saturday, 2:00 – "I am my Beloved's," The Song of Songs</b> (Men & Women)	10
A brief presentation of romantic love as depicted in the Bible, followed by a textual overview of the Song of Songs (Solomon), using the two-character view, presenting practical guidance for developing and sustaining romance in a marriage. Also a sequel to the Origin of the Family lesson.	
<b>Saturday 7 PM – Godly Marriage in a Fallen World</b> (Men & Women)	15
A sequel to the <i>Origin of the Family</i> lesson, demonstrating how God's new creation, in Christ mitigates the consequences of the Fall by fulfilling the emotional and social needs of men and women, allowing marriages to reflect Christ and His bride.	
<b>Sunday 9:30 AM – Teaching Children Diligently: Driving Out Folly</b> (Parents)	18
Employing the Proverbs and other Bible teaching on rearing children, a presentation of the purpose and principles of discipline which provide practical guidance for daily discipline decisions and techniques.	
<b>Sunday 10:30 AM – The Secret of Successful Leadership</b> (Sermon)	
Based on the story of Deborah and Barak, an exploration of the challenges and blessings of following God's chosen leaders.	
<b>Sunday 3:30 PM – Spirit-led Decision Making</b> (All)	20
Using the example of the apostle Paul's decision-making rationale, an exposition of decision-making led by the flesh or led by the spirit, with practical applications for guiding life decisions and setting family priorities.	

## The Origin of the Family

### A. Course Roadmap (see list of lessons)

### B. Creation of the Ideal Man-Woman Relationship (Gen 1-2)

1. Were there personal relationships that existed before the beginning? (see John 17:24)
2. What special nature was given to mankind (Gen 1:26)?  
Were both men and women given this image (v 27)?  
Did they share some characteristics with the animals? How were they different?
3. Why was the woman created? Was there some special need that existed (2:18-23)?  
Were the man and woman different (2:18, 22, 23)?
4. Were there hunger or other physical desire-pleasures before the fall (see 2:16; 3:6)?
5. Did this relationship involve sexual relations (1:28; 2:24)?  
Was there more than procreation intended in the relationship (2:18, 24)?  
Describe their personal relationship (see 2:24, 25).
6. Were there any role differences before the fall (see I Cor 11:8, 9; I Tim 2:13)?

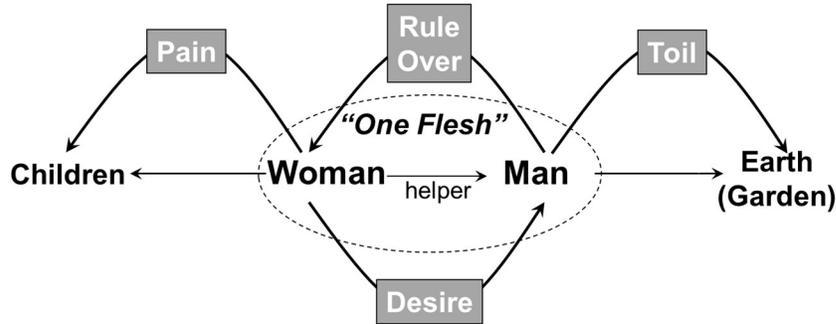


7. Think about the advantages Adam & Eve had in their relationship in the garden.
  - No Shortages, No Anxiety for Survival, Sufficient Pleasure: No Competition for these
  - Immortality: No Fear of Death or Separation
  - No other Choices: No Competition, No Temptations to Unfaithfulness
  - Continual Contact: No separation or Divisive Interests or Distractions
  - No Sin, Little Temptation: No Personal Hurt, or Causes for Grudges or Revenge
  - No Deception (“Naked”); No Fear of Deception
  - “Not Ashamed”: No Cause for Shame or Embarrassment or Lack of Self-confidence
  - Close, Constant, Perfect Companionship; No Loneliness
  - Constant Presence of God (Walk with, & Talk With)
  - Value in God’s Sight: “Image of God;” Superiority over Animals; no low self-esteem
  - Time Filled with Purposeful Activity (“Have Dominion,” “Tend”); Clear Roles
  - No Tragedies, Pain, Sickness, Traumas

### C. The Effects of the Fall.

1. Describe the first sin (Gen 3:1-6; 12,13, and II Cor 11:3). What caused each to sin? Was there a role reversal in the way the sin occurred? Why did Adam sin (I Tim 2:14)?
2. How did the consequences of sin effect:
  - a. Man’s character and conscience (relationship with God)
  - b. Relationships with other men (including women)
  - c. The nature of work
  - d. The assigned male/female roles
  - e. Restrictions and limitations in the world

3. What additional inclinations in men and women are present after the fall? (Gen 3:16-19)



4. What effect on romance would these curses have? Are differences men and women, with regard to romantic love, likely based on, or exaggerated by these curses?
5. Would there be more likely to be misuse and corruption of romantic love after the fall? Would there be more potential pain? Occasions where it was needed but absent?
6. What was the effect of the curses on natural desires such as hunger? Would these desires be more frequent? Stronger? Would they more likely cause sin? Explain.
7. Would difficulties (in producing food, anticipating death, betrayal by others) create anxieties, suspicions, insecurities, jealousies? How might these be expressed in sin?

**D. Continuing Effects of the Fall.**

1. Personal struggles: evil, tragedy, emptiness, complexity (Rom 8:20-23; 5:12-14; 7:18-24)
2. Children’s rebellion and rejection of previous generation’s values
3. Spiritual, moral, civil, decline of successive generations and civilizations
4. Increased opportunity for and temptation to evil
5. Science and governments cannot eliminate the “curses” in the world (Though political parties, philosophers, dictators, media... claim they will.)
  - Cruelty, crime, war, slavery, abuse, hunger, poverty, injustice, despair, sickness, injury, aging
  - Accidents, catastrophes (natural & man-made), death

**E. Recreating the Garden Family.** How can pre-Fall conditions be restored by godly love?

- No Shortages or Anxiety for Survival, Sufficient resources: No Competition \_\_\_\_\_
- Immortality: No Fear of Death or eventual Separation \_\_\_\_\_
- No other Choices: No Competition, No Temptations to Unfaithfulness \_\_\_\_\_
- Continual Contact: No separation or Divisive Interests or Distractions \_\_\_\_\_
- No Sin, Little Temptation: No Personal Hurt, or Causes for Grudges or Revenge \_\_\_\_\_
- No Deception (“Naked”); No Fear of Deception \_\_\_\_\_
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- Value in God’s Sight: “Image of God;” Superiority > Animals; no low self-esteem \_\_\_\_\_
- Time Filled with Purposeful Activity (“Have Dominion,” “Tend”); Clear Roles \_\_\_\_\_
- No Tragedies, Pain, Sickness, Traumas \_\_\_\_\_

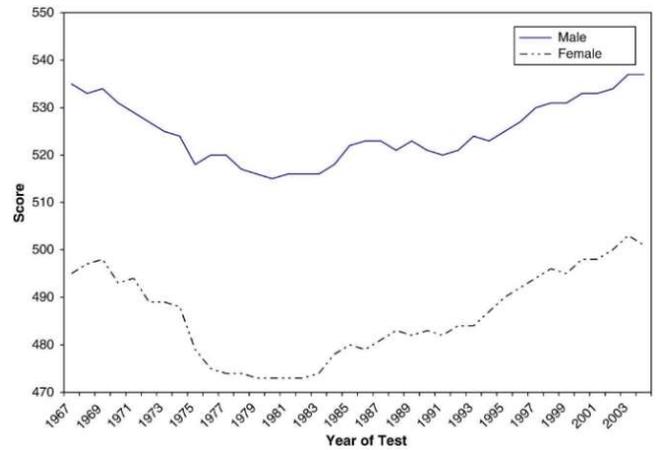
## Male Temperament and Assigned Roles

**A. Lineage of Cain.** List the expressions of man’s fallen character in Cain’s descendants:

1. Gen 4:17
2. Gen 4:19
3. Gen 4:23-24

**B. Male Characteristics – Observations:** Dominance in and preference for:

1. Competition (with winners) – 81% of 33M fantasy football players; video gamers...
2. “There’s some empirical evidence that men tend to focus more on achievement in video games – leveling up rapidly, gaining in-game status and competing against others – while women are drawn to social interactions, whether it’s helping other players or forming long-term relationship.” (www.livescience.com › 55322-are-guys-better-gamers).
3. Courage challenges: base jumping, wing suiting, skydiving, rock climbing, bull-riding; dare challenges; graffiti...
4. Tinkering, building, craftsmanship, invention, math & science (see graph of Average SAT-Mathematics scores of entering college classes, 1967–2004, by sex. Data from the College Entrance Examination Board, 2004).
5. War heroism (& revenge on evil)
6. Physical conflict, violent crimes, men commit:
  - 89% of homicides
  - 87.9% of robberies
  - 85.0% of burglaries
  - 83.0% of arsons
  - 81.7% of vandalism
  - 81.5% of motor-vehicle theft
  - 77.8% of aggravated assault
  - 79.7% of offenses against family & children.
7. Sexual aggression (domestic violence, harassment) & perceptions (e.g. “Me Too”)
  - 98.9% of those arrested for forcible rape
  - Females are primary victims of domestic homicides (63.7%) and sex-related homicides (81.7%)



**C. Differences between men and women in Bible teaching.**

1. Paul (on mothers & fathers) I Thess. 2:7-9 and 2:11-12
2. In the ideal husband-wife relationship, who is:
  - a. The stronger (I Pet 3:7)?
  - b. The protector / provider (e.g. Ruth 3:8-9)?
  - c. The one who sacrifices for the weaker (Eph 5:25, 28)?

**D. Temperament-based Differences.** Based on the differences between men and women, rooted in the order of creation and results of the Fall, list some of the character differences that might be expected or that you have observed:

Female Characteristics	Male Characteristics

**E. Character-based temptations.** Consider the character pre-dispositions listed below. What temptations (to display of poor character) are likely to result?

1. Seeks approval / respect –
2. Goal oriented, accomplishment focused –
3. Wants to control things –
4. Prefers logic (black/white) –
5. Linear thinking: reasons to an end-point –
6. Focuses on external: events, facts –
7. Admires emotional stability –
8. What is said is paramount (not how) –

**F. Dangers and Temptations**

1. What temptations do husbands and fathers face, based on the characteristics above?
2. Give examples of how these temptations result in sin, even in religious families.

**G. “Macho” Men of the Bible**

1. Lamech (Gen 4:19-24) - Two wives; Superior revenge & “trash talk”
2. Esau (see Gen 27:41; Heb 12:16-17) - Outdoorsman-Hunter; Impulsive following desire
3. Simeon & Levi (Gen 34:27) - Defended family “honor” ... with deception & violence
4. Samson (Jdg 14:1-3; 15:3-8) - Big ego; Impulsive sexual decisions; ‘Superior revenge’
5. Saul (I Sam 18:7-11; 20:30-31) – Seething anger → violence; Competitive for power
6. Nabal (I Sam 25:10-11) – Superiority based on strength; Intimidating language/behavior
7. Rehoboam & advisors (I Kgs 12:12) - Intent to dominate by strength & threat

**H. Role Assignments in the Bible (How could this be?)**

1. Patriarch (Gen 2:24; 4:20-21; 9:18; Prov 1:8) - Sets cultural patterns; Instructs/directs household
2. Elder (Ex 3:18) – Respected representative/advocate of a group, decision maker
3. Priest (Ex 28:1-3) - Special office: a go-between for man & God
4. Society Leader/Head (Num 1:2-5, 16; ) - Governors, Commander, administrative and military leaders (e.g. in construction and in battle)
5. Captains, Officers (Josh 23:2; Num 31:12-14, & 21; I Sam 8:10-13) – military, judges, governors
6. Judge (Joshua 23:2, Judges 2:16-19) - Deliverer & governor
7. King (Gen 14:18; I Sam 8:9-18) - Ruler [should have been] on behalf of God
8. Teacher (I Chron 25:7-9; Prov 5:12-14) - Skillful themselves, & transfer knowledge & skill
9. Prophet (Num 12:5-7; Jer 35:15-16) - Speaking for God (courageously, despite opposition)
10. New Testament: Elders, deacons, evangelists, teachers, prayer leaders...

**I. Bible Examples of Leaders’ Qualifications.**

1. List at least five leadership roles assigned to men in the Old Testament.
2. Does the pattern of male leadership continue in the New Testament?
3. What is the origin & rationale for these role differences (I Tim 2:13-14; I Cor 11:3,8-9)?
4. List the qualifications of these leaders from the Bible.

What characteristics do these qualifications have in common?

- Abraham, the Patriarch (Gen 18:19)
- Judges under Moses (Ex 18:19-21)
- Soldiers (Dt 20:8; Judg 7:3)
- David (I Sam 16:7-8, & see I Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22)
- Solomon (I Chron 28:9-10)
- Proto-deacons (Acts 6:3)
- Elders (I Tim 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9)
- Prayer Leaders (I Tim 2:8)
- Teachers (I Tim 4:11-12)

**Self-Assessment** (Max score = 48)

<b>Assessment</b>	0	1	2	3
1. Are you known for 'holiness' (separation from worldly thoughts & things)?	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Always
2. Are you boastful of questionable past activities?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
3. Are you a prayer initiator & leader?	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Always
4. Do you lose your temper, make threats, or act rashly to defend your 'rights,' 'respect,' or 'manhood'?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
5. Can you tolerate insults without anger or desire for revenge, and, instead, respond in kindness?	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Always
6. Do you struggle emotionally when you lose in competition? Are you overly exuberant when you win?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
7. Do you have habits that displace important activities, which you cannot control yourself to do without?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
8. Do you keep commitments, meet deadlines, and follow instructions from those in authority, without resentment?	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Always
9. Are you deceptive or conniving to gain advantage, get your way, build your reputation, or ensure a win?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
10. Do you take care to ensure that nothing you do can be misconstrued as sinful or motivated by evil?	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Always
11. Do you use insults or profanity [or become withdrawn and sullen] to show your displeasure or get your way?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
12. Do you discount fears and emotions in others as weaknesses?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
13. Are others ever reluctant to approach you because of how you might react?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
14. Are you easily provoked to anger toward or criticism of others who cause you inconvenience?	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
15. Are you tolerant of ignorance, clumsiness, immaturity, illogic, or incompetence in others?	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Always
16. Are you eager to forgive others who have wronged you, so they will not feel you hold a grudge against them?	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Always

**J. Self-Assessment. Fill in the self-assessment above by circling the best answers** ("Often," "Occasionally," "Seldom," "Never") Note items on which you score zero or 1, and:

1. Repent, as necessary
2. Pray about them, asking forgiveness
3. Ask forgiveness from others who may have been affected by this behavior
4. Make a plan of action to: eliminate temptations, study the issue, and change your habits
5. Discuss your commitment to work to change with someone close to you, who can help

**K. Spiritual Warfare.**

1. How does the Bible describe the Christian's relationship with the World (II Tim 3:12; I Pet 2:11-12; Phil 2:15; Rom 7:22-23; I John 2:16; I John 5:19; Eph 6:10-13; II Cor 10:3-5...)?
2. What is the goal of spiritually-minded families (I Cor 7:13,16; I Pet 3:1, Eph 6:4; Prov 23:13-24; III John 3-4)?

**L. Useful Male Temperament.** How can male characteristics (to fight, win, conquer fear, plan, outsmart, take vengeance...) be of use to Christian men – for themselves and their families?

## God's Pattern of Fatherhood

### A. God's Male Character. What godly character do these Bible verses command for men?

#### Generally

1. I Tim 2:8
2. I Tim 2:8
3. Tit 2:2,6
4. Titus 2:7
5. Tit 2:7
6. Tit 2:8

#### At Home

1. I Tim 3:4,5
2. Eph 5:25-33
3. Col 3:1
4. I Pet 3:7
5. I Pet 3:7
6. Col 3:21
7. Eph 6:4

### B. The Bible Pattern of Fatherhood

1. What is God's purpose for family relationships? (e.g. I Cor 7:13, Eph 6:4; Prov 23:13-14...)
2. What commands/examples are given to godly fathers?
  - I Thes 2:10,11 [Paul's Example] - Be a role model: Devout, Just, Blameless
  - I Thes 2:10,11 – Exhort, Comfort [Encourage], Charge.
  - Eph 6:4 – Do not provoke to wrath; Train; Admonish (in the Lord)
  - Col 3:21 – Do not provoke, lest they be discouraged
  - Heb 12:7,10 – Chasten, for Profit ... to Righteousness
  - Prov 13:24 – Show Love by Prompt (or Timely or well-thought) Discipline
  - Dt 6:6-9; 20ff – Teach Diligently; Talk, Bind, Write; Answer (20ff)
  - Prov 1:8 (and see 22:6) – Give Instruction; Train for Later Years.
3. Note these characteristics of God as a Father. How can earthly fathers imitate each one?

#### Flawless Character: Perfection, Holiness

- Matt 5:48 – Perfect (Context is love of enemies—very difficult!)
- I Pet 1:16 – Holy (inside & out)
- Jas 1:13 – Not tempted, and doesn't tempt others (only an influence for good)
- Rom 9:14 – No unrighteousness (no past, present, or future sins)
- Jas 1:17b – No variation: total consistency
- Num 23:19; Titus 1:2 – No lies/variation (speaks only truth and keeps promises)
- Rom 3:3,4 – True, even if every man a liar
- Rom 11:22 – Good & severe: just & kind (hates evil, loves good)
- I Pet 1:17 – Judges without partiality

#### Generosity, Benevolence, Unselfishness,

#### Provision, Protection of His children

- Rom 8:31 – [Always working to our benefit] “If God is for us, who against us?”
- Jas 1:17a; Matt 7:11; Luke 11:11-13 – Gives needed gifts
- Jer 31:8,9 – Leads, protects from falling
- Heb 12:7 – Chastens for child's profit
- Dt 1:31 – Bears his son through trouble
- Matt 5:45 – Unconditional blessings (for deserving & undeserving)
- Jas 3:17 – Pure, peaceable, entreat-able

- Ps 103:13; Lk 6:36; Ps 145:8,9 – pities; merciful; gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, kind
- Hos 11:1-4 – Draws unfaithful with love
- II Cor 1:3,4 – Source of mercy & comfort
- II Thes 2:16 – Gives comfort & hope
- I Jno 3:1; 4:9-10 – Loved enough to adopt, call us children, send His Son
- Rom 5:8 – Loved us, despite our rebellion (while we were hostile)
- Rom 8:15,16 – Not a bondage-fear relationship, but “abba, father” closeness

#### Competence, Strength, Capability, Capacity

- Matt 6:8,32 – Aware of all of needs of His children (omniscient)
- Rom 11:33 – Deep wisdom & knowledge (understands everything, not confused/mistaken)
- Matt 10:29,30 – Sees & knows all (watchful, observant)
- Mk 14:36 – can do all things [ability/strength]
- Eph 3:20 – able to do above expectations

#### **D. Self-Assessment in Spiritual Character, Sacrifice & Service, and Skills & Strengths**

##### Spiritual Character (Core Convictions; Personal Relationship with God)

- I believe that God exists, that Jesus is His Son (Who was sacrificed for my sins, was raised, and is now ruling in Heaven), and I have been obedient to the Gospel.
- I believe that the Bible is God's revealed Word: that it must be read, understood, and obeyed in everything.
- I pray often on my own.
- I study the Bible on my own.
- I initiate worship attendance, including special services & meetings at other congregations, and I work to make sure that the family is ready and is on time.
- I initiate family Bible studies and devotions.
- I give sacrificially (including personal sacrifices first), including secret gifts.
- I am an example of honesty in all business and personal transactions.
- My personal habits (entertainment, language, hobbies) are pure & improving.
- I am patient & calm, even when things go wrong or when others are angry.
- I resist jealousy, covetousness, materialism, greed, pride, & desire for revenge.
- I am an example of thinking and speaking the best of others, not judging motives prematurely, and not gossiping or criticizing others to tear them down.
- I am an example of personal discipline in all aspects of life (physical fitness, mental alertness, use of time) with no offensive or detrimental habits.

##### Sacrifice & Service

- I make all decisions thinking first and most of what is best for my family.
- I am known for gentleness and care for others all around me.
- I take time off or use days off for seeing to my wife & children's needs.
- I am careful not to create a burden on my wife because of: my unavailability, unpredictable schedule, personal sloppiness, or other self-centered activities.
- I frequently & voluntarily help with chores: cooking, washing, cleaning, kid care.
- I offer to relieve my wife of duties (I am sensitive to her overload.)
- I am known for volunteering at church, especially to help the weak and needy.
- All my personal hobbies & outings "with the guys" are subject to cancellation, based on the desires and needs of my wife (...and I am not ashamed of this).
- I am never angry when my proposals are not met with approval, or are not followed.
- I never hold a grudge when others' mistakes keep me from getting my way.
- I give up job opportunities and income for family time, and service to others.
- I ask about my wife & children's needs and problems in frequent calls and conversations.
- I am supportive of all of my wife's efforts to discipline and teach our children.
- I am known for my care for our needy relatives
- My wife's car, clothes, house-work tools are safer & better than mine.
- I am visible serving at my child's school, clubs, and other activities.
- I have provided adequate life & health insurance at the sacrifice of my income.
- I plan all vacations & outings for the maximum benefit of my wife & children.
- I am on very good terms (respected, if not liked) with all who know me.
- I am satisfied when others get credit for success, even if I have been involved.

##### Skills & Strengths

- My Bible knowledge is deep and broad.
- I have a good set of Bible study tools (books & other resources).
- My family often asks me Bible questions, like "where is this verse," or "what does the Bible say about..." – and I am able to answer.
- I initiate spontaneous Bible discussions related to current events or family news.
- I am good at teaching a home Bible study for my family.

- My health and conditioning are robust enough that I accomplish all required activities with energy & strength to spare to care for others.
- I am competent to fix (or arrange to have fixed) cars and home appliances.
- I earn adequate income to support my family.
- I understand home finances, budgeting, insurance, taxes, and investing.
- I manage the family's expenses to be well within our income, including liberal contributions, long-term savings, and short-term emergency funds.
- I am good at, and take the lead in resolving conflicts between my wife and myself and between members of our extended family.
- I am skillful at administering discipline to the children, in perfect concert with my wife's efforts, so that they feel corrected but also more loved and encouraged because of it.
- I have studied my wife's strengths & weakness & understand her fears & hopes.
- I have found ways to help my wife excel in areas of service for which she is suited.
- I have studied my children to know their strengths, weaknesses, & uniqueness, so I know how to teach, advise, protect, comfort, encourage, and warn them.

*List 3 areas in which you could improve. List at least 2 actions you can take to start.*

Areas to Improve	Actions I can take this week
	1
	2
	1
	2
	1
	2

- E. Setting Goals for Our Children.** Imagine your child is 35 years old, married, with children of his/her own. What do you want them to be, to do, to have?
1. Should we be setting goals for our children? (I Sam 1:11; Ill Jno 4; Prov 19:18)
  2. Might these goals include: health, social skills, education, talents, income, leisure...?
  3. Give examples of "ordinary" decisions we make for our children, or that they observe in us, that are expressions of our goals (expressed in priority-setting).
  4. Should our goals for our children be expressed in daily decisions for them when they are small (that is, within our control more than ever)? (Prov 22:6)
  5. What is the penalty for those who lead children astray from God? (Matt 18:6)
  6. Describe family plans and activities that would support goals related to:
    - a. choice of friends (set by choice of neighborhood, family activities, parental guidance)
    - b. course of study in school (perhaps choice of school)
    - c. use of income, level of debt, emphasis on status and comfort in expenses
    - d. number and type of school extra-curricular activities
    - e. travel, entertainment activities, vacation "fun"
    - f. priorities placed on worship & Bible study attendance (in relation to a-d above)

- F. Setting and Showing Priorities.**
1. How are priorities learned (and internalized) by children?
  2. How do we teach priorities?

## "I Am My Beloved's," The Song of Songs

### A. Introduction, Background, and Premises

1. Critique this definition: Romantic Love is "The emotion in men and women that causes them to wish to devote themselves completely to another." (Critique this definition)
  - a. Is it always pleasant? predictable, controllable, logical? Is there no controlling it?
  - b. Is it related to sexual desires? Is it the same? Does it always involve sex?
  - c. Is it always right to "be in love"? Is it always wrong to "be in love"?
2. Godless views of Sexuality (would these make a difference in a relationship?)
  - a. Pagan Views
    - Male/female deities were the origin/stimulants, so became objects/methods of worship
    - Often related to fertility. How might these have begun? Why were they attractive?
  - b. Natural-Evolution-Animal Origin
    - Sexual differentiation and instincts due to natural selection and conditioning
    - Genetic-chemical-physical-social causes drive emotions and decisions
3. Old Testament History and Law
  - a. Many examples of romantic love (Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob & Leah, Shechem & Dinah, Samson &..., Elkanah & Hannah, David & Michal, David & Abigail, Amnon & Tamar, Solomon &..., Hosea & Gomer, Jehovah & Israel - Ps 45)
  - b. Associates romantic love with marriage (related to "cleave" in Gen 2:24).
  - c. Indicates that romantic love may or may not be present (Gen 29:20; Gen 24:67; Dt 21:15) in a marriage. Its presence was not required for marriage to be binding.
  - d. Made the first year of marriage special—to "cheer his wife" (Dt 24:5).
  - e. Associates all proper sexual activities in the man/woman marriage relationship (Gen 2:24; Ex 21:10). Intercourse was consummation of marriage. (Gen 29:23,30)
  - f. Forbids sexual activity outside marriage and called for severe penalties.
    - A woman not found to be a virgin at marriage was to be stoned (Dt 22:13-21)
    - Adulterers were to be stoned (Ex 20:14; Dt 22:22).
    - Fornication with a woman betrothed to another was punishable by death (Dt 22:23,24).
    - A man who committed fornication with an unmarried girl had to pay her father and marry her (Ex 22:16; Dt 22:28,29).
    - Sexual activity other than between a man and woman was abomination (Lev 18:22,23)
  - g. Nakedness was a shame (Gen 9:23; Ex 20:26) and was associated with prostitution and lewdness (Ezek 16:36-38). It is also a euphemism for sexual intercourse (Lev 18:6-23).
  - h. Betrothal was as binding as marriage (Dt 22:23,24).
  - i. Jealousy for unfaithfulness was an approved emotion (Num 5:1-30).
4. Summary Principles
  - a. Romantic love is recognized in the Bible as a real emotion/desire
  - b. Romance is related to the man/woman creation in purpose and function.
  - c. Since men and women are different, their needs and wants in romance are different.
  - d. Romance is about companionship (the person), more than pleasure or gratification.
  - e. Romance was changed by the fall to be less perfect, and more a source of temptation.
  - f. Romance has some natural (e.g. like the animals) characteristics (e.g. related to sexual urge).
  - g. Romance, like other emotions, can be ruled by the moral/Intellectual aspect of man.
  - h. Romance can be improved/enhanced by compliance with God's word.
    - i. Romance serves as a motivation to marry (or to other actions) but can be a source of temptation to violate God's Laws.
    - j. Romantic love (as a part of "companionship" between man and wife) was associated with marriage as an ideal (that is it is used as the basis for teaching on the behaviors in marriage).
    - k. Romantic love is not, however, always present in marriage, and may occur outside marriage.
    - l. God's moral laws do not change based on the presence/absence of romantic love.
    - m. Care must be exercised to avoid sin in connection with male-female relationships.
    - n. The New Testament reveals that the purpose of the marriage relationship is to teach us about God.
    - o. The ideal marriage satisfies the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of both men and women..

## **B. Place of the Song in Wisdom Literature**

1. Title: "Song of Songs" (Shir Hashirim) – Hebrew superlative (compare to Dt 10:17 "God of Gods;" Ezek 16:7; Eccl 1:2, 12:8 "Vanity of vanities;" Dan 2:37 "King of kings")
2. Deals with a phenomenon which is at the center of human thoughts and attention
3. Expands on themes in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes
4. Perhaps a complement ("girl's-eye view") to the Proverbs, written to a son (e.g. Prov 1:8)

## **C. Authorship and Date of Writing**

1. Solomon is the obvious answer.
  - a. Ascribed directly to Solomon (1:1), with references throughout (1:5; 3:7,9,11; 8:11-12)
  - b. References to the King (1:4,12; 7:5)
  - c. Solomon was a prolific writer (I Kings 4:32-34)
2. Other Ideas (must reject the verbal inspiration and providential preservation of scripture)
  - a. Anthology of [Canaanite?] love songs (yet has poetic hooks & phrase linkages)
  - b. Someone else (later in time?)
3. Date (based on choice of author) – 10th century BC
  - a. Solomon's reign – probably early, connected with I Kings 3:4-12 request for wisdom.
  - b. References to the beauty of Jerusalem (6:4), Tirzah (6:4), and other geography indicate a time after David, and before the divided kingdom.

## **D. Interpretation**

1. Steps of the Approach to assign speakers, events, and story sequence.
  - a. Hebrew noun/pronoun genders (not obvious in English) indicate speakers.
  - b. Find events (non-symbolic, non-metaphor, non-dream-like) as Anchor Points
  - c. Look for sequences of development in the events or relationships (e.g. growing terms of endearment) that might indicate the flow of time, or placement in time.
  - d. Look for breaks in setting, scenery, season, mood to segregate "scenes".
  - e. Interpret each section in the context of constructed "scenes" and story flow.
  - f. Look for repeated phrases, events (e.g. daughters of Jerusalem) to help interpret.
2. Anchor point: Wedding Procession (See Figure: "Building an Event Sequence")
  - a. Clearly describes a literal wedding day (day of his "espousals") - 3:11
  - b. Follows a break point (3:5) and change of scene (3:6)
  - c. Solomon specifically named, and the events of a wedding procession are literal.
3. Interpreting events forward from the Wedding Scene
  - a. The wedding night (4:1-5:1)
    - First intimate description (4:1-5) concludes with an invitation by both (4:8, 16)
    - Her garden is locked, then opened for him to enter (4:12, 16)
    - The scene ends in satisfaction and expression of approval [of God?]
  - b. His rejected visit at night, and her dream (5:2-8)
    - Seems to indicate their cohabitation
    - Ends in reconciliation (4:9-6:13), with reference to "visiting his garden" (6:2).
  - c. Later Scenes in which they are together, traveling, and discussing things (ch 7,8)
    - Similar intimate descriptions as on the wedding night, but more detail (7:1-10)
    - Travel to the countryside and appearances in public (7:11-8:5)
  - d. Concluding conversations (Conclusions? Applications?) at end of the book (8:6-14)
3. Interpreting events backward from the Wedding Scene
  - a. Her thoughts of him, while alone at night (3:1-5)
    - A longing (suggesting insecurity or anxiety) for him.
    - Ends with the warning statement about awakening love... (3:5)
  - b. Time together, outdoors, in the spring (coming to visit in the morning) (2:8-17)
    - Romantic, but does not contain the personal descriptions that follow the wedding.
  - c. A banquet and/or forest setting (1:12-2:7)
    - Much antiphonal parallelism: about emotions (e.g. 2:5)
    - Concludes with the "do not arouse ..." phrase (2:7)
  - d. Introduction of the situation (1:2, 4), characters (1:4,5), mood (1:4b,c). (1:1-1:11)

## E. Sequence of Scenes

### I. Before the Wedding

- Scene 1 (1:1-4) Introduction; Thoughts of him
- Scene 2 (1:5-11) A meeting at the vineyards
- Scene 3 (1:12-14) A Banquet Remembered
- Scene 4 (1:15-2:7) Romance in the forest
- Scene 5 (2:8-2:17) A Reunion on a Spring Morning
- Scene 6 (3:1-5) Thoughts of him (before wedding?)

### II. The Wedding and Wedding Night

- Scene 1 (3:6-11) Wedding Procession
- Scene 2 (4:1-15) Song of Praise for His Bride
- Scene 3 (4:16-5:1) Consent and Consummation

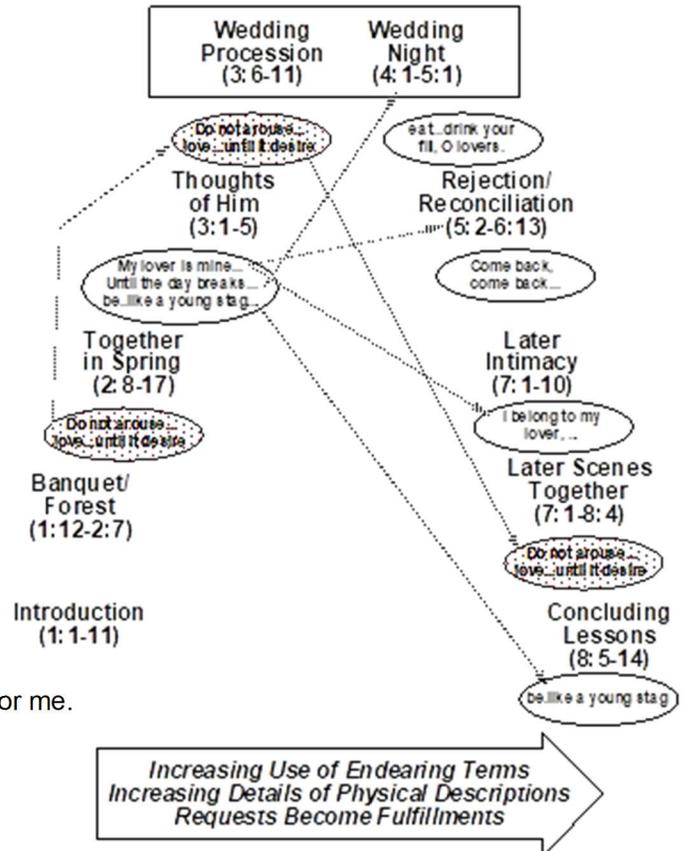
### III. Married Life

- Scene 1 (5:2-8) Trouble One Night
- Scene 2 (5:9-6:13a) Reconciliation
- Scene 3 (6:13b-7:10) Later Lovemaking
- Scene 4 (7:11-8:9) Trip to the Home Country
- Scene 5 (8:10-14) Retrospective of Romance

## F. Other Suggestions of Sequence

1. Belonging & Ownership
  - 2:16 – My beloved is mine and I am his.
  - 6:3 – I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.
  - 7:10 – I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me.
2. Request & Fulfillment תְּשׁוּבָה
  - 1:2 and 7:9; 8:1
  - 2:17 and 4:6
  - 2:10, 13 and 7:11-12; 8:5
3. Intimacy of descriptions (1:9-11; 4:1-7; 7:1-7)
4. Who initiates plans (vs wishing...)
  - Before: 1:4; 2:4; 2:10; 3:6; 4:8; 4:16 (permission)
  - + After: 7:10-13; 8:1-2; 8:14
5. Evolution of names for each other
  - Hers for Him
    - 1:4,12 – the king
    - 1:13; 2:3,8,9,10,16,17 – my beloved
    - 3:1-4 – the one my heart loves (4 times)
    - 3:7,9,11 – Solomon
    - + 4:16-5:10 – my beloved
    - + 5:16 – my beloved, my friend
    - + 6:2-3; 7:13 – my beloved
    - + 8:12 – Solomon
6. Her Self-Image
  - 1:5-6 – Dark (but lovely); “do not stare;” neglected vineyard
  - 2:1 – I am a rose, lily of the valleys
  - + 6:12 – Before I was even aware, my soul had made me as the chariots of my noble people.
  - + 8:10 – I have become in his eyes as one bringing contentment

## Building an Event Sequence



### His for Her

- 1:8 – most beautiful of women [friends?]
- 1:9,15; 2:10,13 – my darling
- 2:14 – my dove
- 4:1,7 – my darling
- + 4:9,11,12; 5:1 – my sister, my bride
- + 5:2 – my sister, darling, dove, flawless one
- + 6:4 – darling
- + 6:9 – my dove, perfect one
- + 7:1 – prince's daughter
- + 7:6 – my love

G. **Text.** Read each section of the Song, considering potential applications see next section.

**H. Applications.** As we discuss these, mark those that have some personal application.

Introduction & Courtship (Song 1:1-3:5)

- 1:5-6, 9-10, 2:1-2 – Early in a relationship, appearance dominates attraction. Take care not to cause insecurity nor overemphasize physical beauty alone.
- 1:5-6; 1:7 – Physical attraction can mask important concerns that should be a part of courtship (getting to know the person, evaluating his or her character, concern for public appearance).
- 1:3; 2:3-4 – A virtuous woman will look past a man's appearance and reputation to his character and ability to protect and provide.
- 1:1; 2:17 – Sexual desires are natural and should be planned for in anticipation of marriage.
- 1:3, 4, 7 – Unmarried couples should take time to think about the person and the relationship.
- 1:7-8 – A dating couple should take care about the impression left on others by their behavior.
- 1:13 – Involvement in a romantic relationship can affect the way a man or woman looks and feels.
- 2:7(?) – A couple should be aware that sexual attraction is a strong force in the early stages of romance but must be governed with care and self-control and must not dominate the relationship.
- 2:10-13 – Couples should share many experiences & circumstances to learn about each other.
- 3:1-4 – Emotional highs/lows occur in courtship, often caused by insecurity about the relationship.
- 3:5 (?) – These insecurities may cause an increase in sexual temptation and require great care.
- 2:4; 3:1-2; 4:8 – "Living together" (in fornication) may offer immediate pleasure but does not provide personal security or the commitment required for complete romantic fulfillment.

The Wedding and Consummation (Song 3:6-5:1)

- 3:6-10 – The husband should be able to provide financial security and physical and emotional protection for his wife.
- 4:9-10; 12-15 – Husbands should praise both the inner character and beauty of their wife.
- 4:1-5; 7:1-5 – Particular parts of the body have a special attraction for one's mate. These should be shared with one's mate but be guarded with special modesty outside the marriage relationship.
- 4:8 – A husband must encourage and enable his wife to overcome her fears and insecurities to achieve complete fulfillment in the marriage relationship, including physical intimacy.
- 4:12; 8:10-12 – Preserving purity into marriage, then fully sharing oneself (only) with one's spouse, ensures security and contentment, and protects and nourishes the sensitive sexual relationship.
- 4:9; 5:8 – A couple should open their hearts to express the effect that each has on the other.
- 4:1-11 – Expressions of praise, love, and commitment should accompany sexual activities.
- 5:1 – Sexual activities in marriage are created and approved by God as a satisfaction of a legitimate appetite and therefore should be neither a source of guilt nor a burdensome duty.
- 4:12; 8:9 – The satisfaction of sexual desires must be limited by God's laws in the same way that the satisfaction of any other desires are subject to His laws.

Married Life (Song 5:2-6:13)

- 5:2-3 – Sometimes romantic feelings are weak or absent. Both partners should avoid self-centeredness in dealing with those occasions.
- 5:3 – Self-centeredness must be overcome to avoid & solve problems and complete a reconciliation.
- 5:6-8 – Problems in a marriage relationship often are reflected in trouble in other activities as well.
- 5:9; 6:4-9 – Repair a relationship by reviewing your spouse's character, value, your commitment, as well as her beauty.
- 6:1-3 – Overcome unpleasant feelings toward a mate by thinking of his/her needs and interests.
- 6:10-12 – Renew romance by remembering past experiences, reviewing the growth of the relationship and blessings brought by one's mate.
- 6:4-10 – In repairing a relationship, the husband should praise his wife: emphasizing her character and value to him and his commitment to her, more than her physical attraction to him.
- 2:16; 6:3; 7:10 – Over time, the feeling of ownership should evolve to possession by the spouse.
- 6:3 – Marriage brings radical changes to one's life. Selflessness and a sense of security helps make the necessary adjustments.
- 7:1-5 – As a marriage relationship grows, the appreciation (and expressions of it) for the other person should grow, both in the number of things noticed and the depth of the appreciation.
- 6:8-9 – In a maturing relationship, one should become more conditioned to be attracted by one's mate, rather than to another standard of beauty or source of sexual appeal.
- 7:1-5 – The pleasure in marriage should increase as the relationship becomes more stable and secure, and as each learns more, and is attentive to the needs and desires of the other.

- ❑ 7:10 – The maturing relationship is gratified by meeting the desire **הַיְשׁוּקָהּ** of the beloved, not benefit to self.
- ❑ 7:11-12 – Continued shared experiences (dates, trips....) reinforce romance & multiply its pleasures.
- ❑ 7:13 – Variety: new (places, events, experiences) and old (habitual, familiar, nostalgic), refresh feelings of romance.
- ❑ 7:11 – In a mature relationship, the wife should be confident and comfortable to initiate and plan activities, including lovemaking.
- ❑ 6:2-3 – In planning activities, the interest and enjoyment of the other should be the priority.
- ❑ 8:1-2 – Sexual desires must be controlled when, because of circumstances, they cannot be fulfilled.

#### Conclusions (Song 8:5-14)

- ❑ 7:13; 8:5 – Building a wealth of experiences and memories strengthens the romantic relationship.
- ❑ 8:6-7 – Commitment--felt within and expressed to one's spouse and others--is needed for security in the relationship (especially for the wife) and enables marriages to weather great difficulties.
- ❑ 8:6 – Jealousy is a powerful, God-designed emotion—prevented by a deep sense of mutual belonging.
- ❑ 8:7 – Romantic love is an expression of free will: it should be offered freely and cannot be forced.
- ❑ 8:7 – Gifts and favors cannot replace expressions (speech & action) of commitment and affection.
- ❑ 8:8-9 – Singles must develop self-control or be protected by others from sexual temptation.
- ❑ 8:10 – Preserving purity into marriage, then fully sharing oneself (only) with one's spouse, ensures security and contentment.
- ❑ 8:11-12 – The largest portion of our attention and affection (to people) should go to our spouses.

#### Other Lessons You Learned:

- ❑
- ❑

## Godly Marriage in a Fallen World

### A. *Brief History of the Family.*

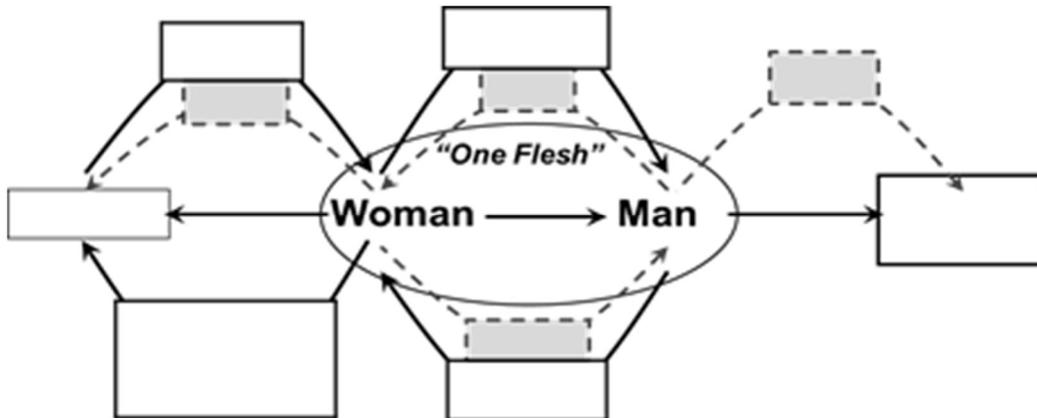
1. Created by God at the beginning
  - Male and female in God's image (Gen 1:27)
  - Created very good (Gen 1:31)
  - One Flesh (Gen 2:24) – suggesting permanence, sacrificial care, and fellowship
2. Corrupted by Sin and its consequences (Gen 3:1-19)
  - Adam/Eve – Temptation (3:6), Sin (3:6), Blame (3:12), Curses (3:16-19)
  - Cain/Abel – Jealousy, Violence, Curses (Gen 4:1-15)
  - Corruption spread through marriage (Gen 6:2), etc...
3. And yet... God's plan to preserve faithfulness
  - Abraham (Gen 18:19)
  - Israelites (Deut. 6:6-9; 20-25)
  - NT: (I Cor 7:13,16; I Pet 3:1; Eph 6:4; III John 3-4)

### B. *Ephesians and the Recreated Family in Christ.*

1. Note the reference to and imagery of Creation in the Ephesian epistle:
  - "Heavens & earth" (1:3-4, 10); Before the Creation (1:4, and see 3:9)
  - Put His breath (Spirit) within us (1:13; 2:18; 3:16)
  - Given dominion, in Christ (1:19-21)
  - Given life (2:1,5)
  - "His workmanship, created" (2:10); "Created one new man" (2:15); New man created (4:24)
  - Peace/Fellowship with God (2:17-18)
2. Note the reference to and imagery of Family in the Ephesian epistle:
  - "Father" (9 times of God) ... "adoption as sons...to Himself" (1:3,5)
  - "Now you are... members of the household of God" (2:19)
  - "...to the Father...from whom the whole family ..." (3:14-15)
  - "One God and Father of all..." (4:6)
  - "One body," all members working to build up in love (4:4,16, see 5:29-30)
  - [Growth] "...Children, no longer tossed...grow up..." (4:14-15)
  - "As beloved [dearly loved, HCSB] children" (5:1)
  - "Sons of Disobedience" vs "Children of Light" (5:6,8)

### C. *Reversing the Curses of the Fall.*

1. Paul refers to the "ideal" conditions before the Fall as the guide for husbands' behavior. (Eph 5:31). Also the new creation (bride of Christ) is the pattern for wives (5:22-24).
2. Remember the curses on the man and woman at the Fall, which corrupted the ideal relationship. Complete the diagram below, using Eph 5:22-25.
3. Note that both husband & wife Have Needs Fulfilled by the Other:
  - The man's "natural" tendency to rule is fulfilled by the subjection of his wife.
  - The woman's "natural" emotional dependency is fulfilled by love from her husband.



#### **D. Christ-like Pattern of Headship from Eph 5:22-33**

22 Head (see Col 2:19 – causes growth)	→ Initiates & encourages development
23 Saves	→ Protects from all negative consequences; bears the burden of her shortfalls
25 Loves (as Christ did the church)	→ Center of thought (no other job)
25 Gave Himself for Her	→ Does without, disciplines self, gives up time & things
26 Sanctifies, Cleanses	→ Quickly forgives/forgets; sees good; expects best
27 Present Glorious, Perfect, Holy	→ Praises privately & before others
28 Love as own body	→ No harm created/allowed; pain shared sympathetically
29 Nourishes (Feeds)	→ Detects & fills all emotional & physical needs
29 Cherishes (Cares for)	→ Assists, pampers, pleases—motivated by affection
30 United with (in Action & Purpose)	→ Constant communication for unity
33 Loves as Himself	→ Creates pleasure & satisfaction; joy is shared sympathetically

E. **The Family of the New Man in Christ (Eph 4, 5).** What do these qualities of the new man in Christ suggest about a family comprised of disciples of Christ? List practical applications and actions that these characteristics indicate.

1. Unity & Peace (4:1-3)
  - Enabled by lowliness, gentleness, patience, forbearance (4:2)
  - ...and forgiveness (32).
  - An “endeavor” (4:3)
  - A [collocated] work, together (4:12, 16)
  - One Body, each member does its share in love (4:16)
2. Honesty & Truth (4:15)
  - Correct errors (4:14-15)
  - Put away lying (4:25); “speak truth,” (see Zech 8:16-17...)
  - Do not think evil in your heart (Zech 8:17)
3. Selfless Service (4:16)
  - Each part building up the others, in love (4:16)
  - Hard work, for the benefit of others (4:28)
  - No covetousness or greed (4:19; 5:3, 5).
4. Holiness (4:24)
  - No sexual impurity (4:19, 5:3)
  - No corrupt, coarse or foolish speech (4:29)
  - No sharing with these (5:7, 11-12).
5. Kindness (4:31-32)
  - Tenderheartedness (4:32)
  - Forgiveness (4:32)
  - No wrath, anger (4:26; see Psalm 4 in context!)
  - No bitterness (4:31)
  - No evil speaking (4:31)
  - No malice (4:31).
6. Spirit-filled Worship (5:18-20, & see Col 3:16)
  - Enabled by lowliness, gentleness, patience, forbearance (4:2)
  - Spirit (Word)-filled (5:18)
  - Song, etc. (5:19, Col 3:16)
  - Giving thanks (5:20).

**F. No Longer Walk as the Gentiles (Eph 4:17).**

How common are these behaviors in the World? Why?  
What Empowers the behavior in those adopted by God in Christ?

- 4:1 – ...Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called
- 4:20 – ...You have ... learned Christ
- 4:30 – You are sealed by the Holy Spirit for redemption
- 4:32 – ...As God in Christ forgave you
- 5:2 – As Christ also has loved us ... given Himself for us...
- 5:3 – As is fitting for saints (Holy people)
- 5:5 – We have an inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God
- 5:8 – Now you are light in the Lord (...children of light)
- 5:18 – Filled [infused, influenced] with the Spirit/Word

**G. The Purpose of the Family.**

1. I Cor 7:13,16 – And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him...  
For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?
2. I Pet 3:1 – Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives
3. Eph 6:4 – And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
4. Prov 23:13,14 – Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol.
5. Ill John 3,4 – For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

## Teaching Children Diligently: Driving Out Folly

**Objectives.** (At the end of the class, the students will be able to...)

- Define the characteristics of “Wisdom” and “Folly,” as described in the Proverbs
- Explain Proverbs 22:15, using the definition of Folly from the Proverbs
- Describe a checklist for corporal punishment

**A. Godless Worldview of Child-rearing.** What are the implications of a godless (humanistic, Darwinist, materialist) world view for rearing children?

**B. Our Spiritual Warfare.**

1. Thought experiment: What if Adam and Even had resisted the Serpent and never sinned. Assume that they obeyed God to “be fruitful and multiply”—so they had children to care for in the Garden. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil would still be “in the midst of the Garden” (see Gen 2:9). What steps might Adam & Eve have to take to prevent their children from being tempted successfully by the Serpent?
2. Is our walk as Christians one of peace or conflict with the World (see Matt 10:34)?
  - The Christian’s relationship with the World (II Tim 3:12; I Pet 2:11-12; Phil 2:15)
  - The nature of the conflict (Eph 6:10-13; II Cor 10:3-5...)
  - The strength and strongholds of the enemy (I John 5:19)
  - The battle within (Rom 7:22-23; I John 2:16)
3. What is the spiritual goal of family relationships (I Cor 7:13, 16; I Pet 3:1; Eph 6:4; Prov 23:13-14; III John 3-4)

**C. “Folly” in the Proverbs (to understand Prov 22:15)**

1. The Proverbs contrasts the nature (and fates) of fool and the wise man—the two ways of interacting with the events in God’s world.
2. Describe:
  - a. The fool’s attitude toward law (Prov 10:8)
  - b. The fool’s reaction to instruction and reproof (Prov 15:5)
  - c. What value the fool places in knowledge & understanding (Prov 1:22; 18:2)
  - d. How the fool feels about wisdom & wise men (Prov 1:7)
  - e. The fool’s assessment of his own opinion (Prov 12:15)
  - f. What the fool trusts in (Prov 28:26)
  - g. How likely the fool is to express himself (Prov 18:2, and see 10:8b)
  - h. How far ahead the fool thinks (Prov 10:5)
  - i. The fool’s attitude toward hard work (Prov 24:30-34; 26:13-16)
  - j. The fool’s association with sin (Prov 13:19)
  - k. The fool’s acceptance of spiritual realities (Ps 14:1)
3. Can children be wise or foolish (see Prov 10:1; 13:1, 17:25)? How do they start out? Note that “wisdom” is not how much one knows, or how much experience one has gained (see Eccl 4:13; Prov 1:4).
4. How do small children exhibit the characteristics of folly listed above?
5. Interpret Prov 22:15 using these principles. What are implications for when to punish?

**D. Driving out Folly**

1. What are the motivations for correction (Prov 22:6; 3:11-12; 23:13-14)?
2. What criteria for (related to folly) should be considered?
3. Must discipline be (seem to be) painful to the child (Heb 12:11)? For how long?
4. What are possible wrong motives for punishment?
5. How is discipline characterized in time, in judgment, in effort (Prov 13:24)?  
*He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*
6. How may a direct tie to the “folly being driven out” be evident when we discipline?

### **E. Corporal Punishment Checklist**

1. *Setting rules beforehand*
  - Is the rule (desired behavior) clear (observable)?
  - Is the rule known & understood in advance by the child (could be repeated by him)?
  - Is the punishment (consequence) known and understood in advance by the child (could be repeated by him)?
2. *Evaluating the infraction*
  - Is the disobedience (undesired behavior) obvious and known by the child (perhaps even admitted)?
  - Is the disobedience willful, & evidence of rebellion, laziness, disrespect, stubbornness, or other "Foolishness"?
3. *Interlude – Set an example of self-control*
  - Am I calm (discuss with spouse)? Do I appear calm?
4. *Prelude to Punishment*
  - Have I reviewed (calmly) the rule, the disobedience, & the previously determined & stated consequence with the child?
  - Have I expressed my love, & explained that it is the motive of the punishment?
  - Have I expressed the hurt & regret I feel at having to punish my child (and that it is one of God's rules for me)?
  - Have I expressed confidence that my child is capable of better behavior?
5. *Conclusion & Resolution*
  - Have I expressed & demonstrated my willingness to forgive quickly (including with physical touch)?

### **F. Preventing Punishment Incidents – Suggestions**

1. Be very clear about expectations: review often.
  - Conduct "practice sessions" for difficult behaviors (especially when young)
2. Look for Patterns – Keep records and learn from them
  - Day & Time, Circumstances (events, associates, health, fatigue, inactivity)
3. Look for broader explanations – then address. (All create a need for attention.)
  - Insecurity, disappointments, emotional injury, jealousy, guilt
1. Fill dangerous times with positives & praise: "Overcome evil with good" (Rm 12:21)
  - Attention, activities, discussions, diversions (but not reward for undesirable behavior)
5. Burn off energy in positive ways
  - "The sleep of a laboring man is sweet" (Eccl 5:12)
6. Have explicit discussions about the "danger zones".
  - Look for explanations together
  - Solicit suggestions about assistance
7. Praise often for compliance
  - (Even when unintended—or habitual)
  - Aim to build a self-image of worthiness

### **G. [Bonus] Developing Mature Teens.** Based on the definition of *Folly* and *Wisdom* given in part C of this lesson, what are qualities by which adolescents could be measured?

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <u><i>Folly</i></u>           | <u><i>Demonstrated Wisdom</i></u>                |
| • Not bound by authority      | → Sets own boundaries                            |
| • Hates instruction & reproof | → Welcomes correction                            |
| • Will not listen, learn      | → Seeks advice before acting                     |
| • Trusts in own opinion       | → Defers to wisdom of others                     |
| • Likes to hear himself talk  | → Sympathetic Listener                           |
| • Shortsighted (carnal)       | → Self control, defers gratification, sets goals |
| • Hates hard work             | → Diligent, dedicated, determined worker         |
| • Attracted to sin            | → Pure, flees temptation, always truthful        |
| • Denies spiritual realities  | → Spiritual center in thinking & priorities      |

## Spirit-led Decision Making

### A. **Decision Making Experience.**

1. Most decisions are not obvious choices between good and evil (explicit commands).
2. Most major decisions are not obvious choices between good and evil.
3. Is that because some choices:
  - a. Are religious (God's) requirements vs private (mine)?
  - b. Put my life "out of balance"? [Is this a "Living Sacrifice" (Rom 12:1)?]
4. Leads to questions like: "Is it a sin to..."

### B. **Only Two Ways of Making Decisions.** Note the contrasts in motives and goals.

1. Rom 8:5-11 –
2. Phil 3:15-21 –
3. Col 3:1-17 –

### C. **Paul's Decision to Go to Rome** (Acts 29:21). List all the reasons for Paul to visit Rome.

II Cor 5:9-10 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

① \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

② \_\_\_\_\_

Rom 1:9-15 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I made mention of you always in my prayers. <sup>10</sup> making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established -- <sup>12</sup> that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. <sup>13</sup> Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. <sup>15</sup> So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

⑥ \_\_\_\_\_

⑦ \_\_\_\_\_

⑤ \_\_\_\_\_

④ \_\_\_\_\_

Rom 15:20, 22-25, 28,32 <sup>20</sup> And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation...

③ \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>22</sup> For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you. <sup>23</sup> But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you, <sup>24</sup> whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while. <sup>25</sup> But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints...

⑨ \_\_\_\_\_

⑧ \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

⑨ \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>32</sup> that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.

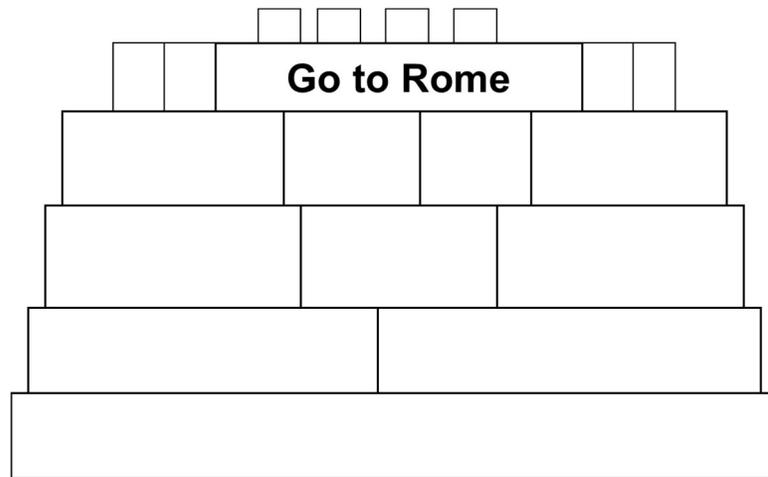
⑧ \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Observations about Paul's Reasons**

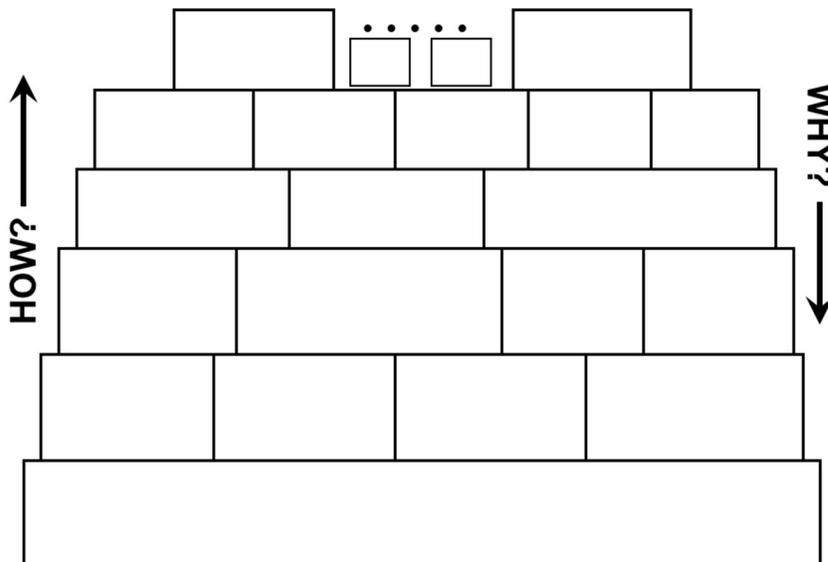
1. Do you detect dependencies between some of these reasons?  
List one or two reasons which are related.
2. Are some of these "incidental," meaning that they are good, but not a sufficient?
3. Do some of these benefit other people?
4. Do some of these benefit Paul himself?
5. Are there some that are likely to change, or could become invalid if circumstances change?
6. Are there some that will never change?
7. Could these be put in an order of most-to-least important? What would be the most important?

**E. Paul's Decision Structure.** Fill in the figure below, using these rules:

1. Lower blocks are the WHYs for the upper blocks
2. Blocks above are the HOWs for the lower blocks
3. The lower the block, the more important and unchanging it is.
4. The higher the block, the more likely it is to be removed (be replaced) when the reason no longer enables the blocks below.

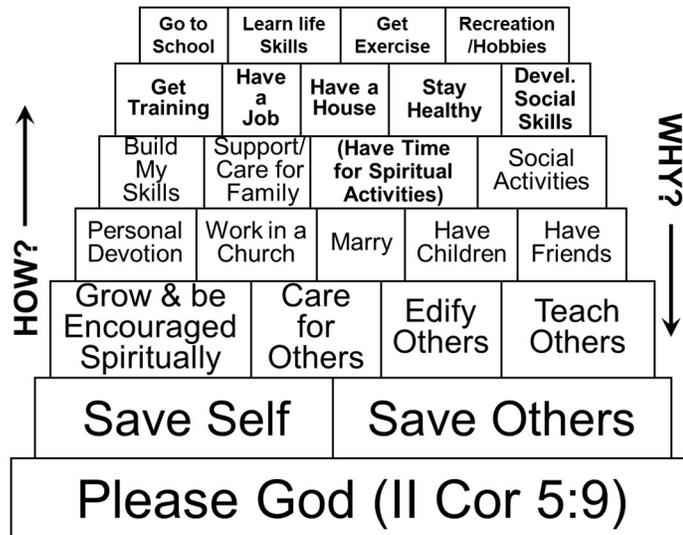


**F. A Flesh-driven Decision Structure.** What would a modern, carnally-minded decision structure look like?



**G. A Spirit-driven Decision Structure.** Examine the decision structure below.

1. Would this person be likely to marry? Why?
2. Would this person get a college education? Why?
3. Would this person have a good job? Stay healthy? Be in clubs? Own a home? Be a member of a local church? Have hobbies?,,,
4. How would the decision structure (notice the “Whys”) influence these decisions?



**H. Questions and Statements of those Guided by the Flesh.**

1. Can you think of an answer to questions that begin, “Is it a sin to...?”
2. Look at these statements. Do they suggest spiritually-minded thinking?
  - I don’t see anything wrong with... no harm done...
  - But it makes me happy.
  - I just really [do/don’t] like it.
  - I don’t think I should be required to...
  - I have a right to... That’s my personal business...
  - Nobody would expect me to...
  - Everyone else is doing it.
  - I don’t see any Bible verse that says it’s wrong...
  - That’s too fanatical. You’ve got to have balance...
  - Surely God wouldn’t expect me to...
  - [so-and-so] Does it, and it works out okay.

**I. How Does God Judge our Decisions?.**

1. The popularity (approval of others)?
2. The outcome?
  - The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord. (Prov 16:33)
  - Many are the plans in a person’s heart, But it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails (Prov 19:21)
  - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; <sup>14</sup> whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” (James 4:13-15)
3. The heart: the rationale—ultimate “Why”—we used to make the decision.
  - He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.” (Lk 16:15)
  - Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts. (Prov 21:2)

*The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. (Jer 17:9-10)*