

# Building Strong Homes—Lesson 6

## Getting Back to God’s Original Plan

- I. Getting back to God’s original plan means...
  - A. Getting back to the **Scriptures**, to the **heavenly wisdom** found within its pages.
    1. What happens when every man does what is “right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25)?
      - a. “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12).
    2. What results can we expect when people do “not like to retain God in their knowledge” (Romans 1:18-32)?
    3. What a sharp contrast indeed between the fruits of heavenly wisdom and the fruits of earthly wisdom (James 3:13-18)!
    4. In “perilous times” (2 Tim. 3:1), so what do we do? See 2 Tim 3:1-5, 14, 16-17.
    5. “Unless the LORD builds the house...” (Psalms 127:1).
  - B. Getting back to using **Christ as our model**.
    1. As the model of a leader. Isaiah 40:10-11.
    2. As the model of love. 1 John 3:16-18; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 5:25.
    3. As the model of submission. Philippians 2:5-8.
    4. As the model of holiness. 1 Peter 1:15-16.
    5. As the model of encouragement, endurance, self-control, forgiveness, etc.
  - C. Getting back to **one man for one woman for life**.
    1. “Then the rib which the Lord God has taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man...therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they (“the two”) shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:22, 24).
    2. “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:6).
    3. “A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives” (1 Corinthians 7:39; see also Romans 7:2).
    4. “A wife is not to depart from her husband...a husband is not to divorce his wife” (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
    5. The **single** exception: “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery” (Matthew 19:9).
  - D. Getting back to the **roles** God assigned each person in the family.
    1. Husband/father’s role? Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:4; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; 1 Peter 3:7.

2. Wife/mother's role? Ephesians 5:22, 33; 1 Timothy 2:15; 5:14; Titus 2:3-5.
  3. Children's role? Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20; 1 Timothy 3:4.
  4. **Speaking of roles, older women need to teach younger women (Titus 2:3-5).**
- E. Getting back to spiritual thinking (see Romans 8:5).
1. "Whatever things are true...noble...just...pure...lovely...of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—mediate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).
- F. Getting back to an **emphasis on eternity**.
1. An eternal perspective is crucial, and it will affect everything we do, every decision we make. Matthew 6:19-23.
  2. Does "he who dies with the most toys" really win?
    - a. What about the rich man and Lazarus? (Luke 16:19-31).
    - b. "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).
    - c. "He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house..." (Proverbs 15:27).
    - d. "Better is a dry morsel with quietness than a house full of feasting with strife" (Proverbs 17:1).
  3. The "toys" we do have, do we spend them and use them with a view toward eternity? (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
  4. Are we choosing the "good part," the part which "will not be taken away"? (Luke 10:38-42).
    - a. Are we involved in so many activities that the good part is neglected?
  5. Are we "shortsighted" when it comes to our children? (2 Peter 1:9).
    - a. **Foresight** is a critical component of childrearing (Proverbs 22:3).
    - b. Does their momentary joy mean more to us than their eternal joy? Do we let them go places, do things, wear things, etc., only because it will make them happy right now, and maybe ease the friction between us?
  6. This emphasis on eternity is why we start very early with their spiritual training; why we don't become overly defensive; why we monitor their friendships; why we never knowingly let them do anything wrong; why we restrain them, yet give them enough rope to develop their own faith; why mothers think long and hard before they leave home to take a job, **especially** when children are young; why we put a premium on attendance; etc.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Heavenly wisdom is calling out to us, and if we don't answer the call, it will be to our own peril. Proverbs 1:20-33.
2. "Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father" (1 John 2:24).