

# Creating Godly Families

## September 9 – 11, 2022

### Goals of the Study

1. [All] Rededicate ourselves to the mission of countering the harmful and threatening effects of the World on our families.
2. [Men] Channel our God-given temperaments into development of character, knowledge, and skills to become leaders in our spiritual battle.
3. [All] Increase our determination to learn and follow God’s plans (roles and duties) in order to survive, victorious in a fallen world.
4. [All] Implement the qualities of the new man in Christ in our family relationships.

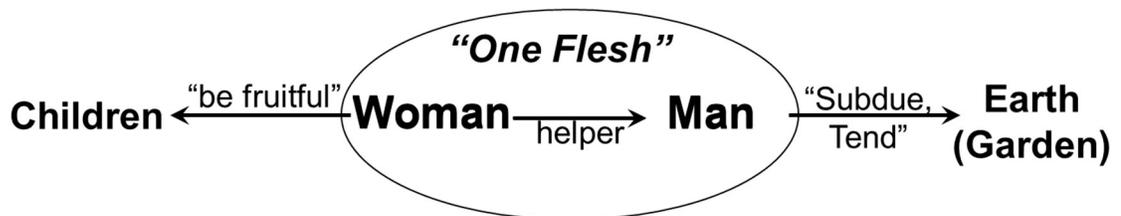
### Lesson Summaries

	<u>Page</u>
<p><b>1. <i>Origin of the Family: Eden and the Fall</i></b> – Friday Evening (all)</p> <p>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, 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.</p>	2
<p><b>2. <i>Male Temperament and Assigned Roles</i></b> – Saturday morning (men)</p> <p>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.</p>	4
<p><b>3. <i>God’s Pattern of Fatherhood</i></b> – Saturday Morning (men)</p> <p>A study of Bible’s instructions to fathers and descriptions of our ideal Father, God Himself, to discover desired character and abilities to which human fathers must aspire. Includes a self-assessment.</p>	7
<p><b>4. <i>Godly Marriage in a Fallen World</i></b> – Saturday Morning (all)</p> <p>A sequel to the “Origin of the Family” lesson, presenting details of how God’s commands for husbands and wives mitigate the consequences of the Fall by fulfilling the emotional and social needs of men and women, allowing marriages to reflect Christ and His bride, the Church.</p>	10
<p><b>5. <i>Teaching Children Diligently: Driving Out Folly</i></b> – Sunday Bible Study (adults)</p> <p>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.</p>	12
<p><b>6. <i>Spirit-led Decision Making</i></b> – Sunday Morning Sermon (all)</p> <p>Using the example of the apostle Paul’s decision-making rationale, an exposition of our decision-making, either led by the flesh or led by the spirit, with practical applications for guiding life decisions and setting family priorities.</p>	14

## 1 – Origin of the Family: Eden and the Fall

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

1. What was the purpose of the book of Genesis for the original readers?
2. What special quality was created into 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. Did this relationship include sexual activity (1:28; 2:24)?  
Was there more than procreation in the purpose of the relationship (2:18, 24)?  
Describe their personal relationship (see 2:24, 25).  
  
What is implied in the phrase “One Flesh” (see Mt 19:6; Eph 5:31; I Cor 6:16-17)?

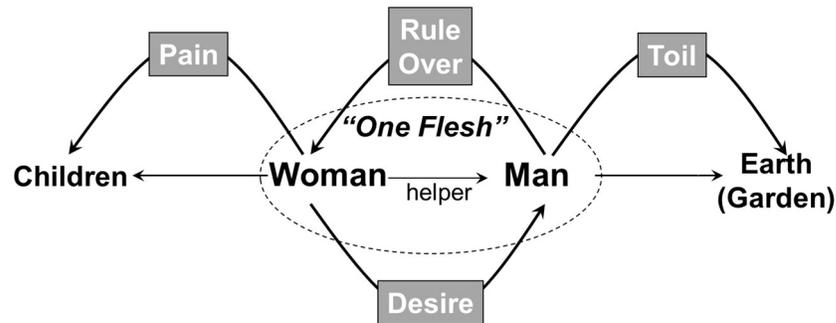


5. Were there role differences before the Fall (see Gen 2:20; I Cor 11:8-9; I Tim 2:13)?
6. Was there hunger or other physical desire-pleasures before the fall (see 2:16; 3:6)?
7. Think about the advantages Adam & Eve had in their relationship in the garden.
  - No Shortages, No Anxiety for Survival, 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”); With Clear Roles
  - No Tragedies, Pain, Sickness, Traumas

### B. Immediate 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) – Gen 3:8
  - b. Relationships with others (including the woman) – 3:12, 16
  - c. The nature of work – 3:17-18
  - d. The assigned male/female roles – 3:16
  - e. Restrictions and limitations in the world – 3:18; 4

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? Do you think differences between men and women with regard to romantic love were created/exaggerated by the 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 on which it was desired 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?

**C. Continuing Effects of the Fall.**

1. Personal struggles: evil, tragedy, emptiness, complexity (Rom 8:20-23; 5:12-14; 7:18-24)
2. Spiritual, moral, civil, decline of successive generations and civilizations
  - Children’s rebellion and rejection of previous generation’s values
3. Increased opportunity for and temptation to evil (with time and technology)
4. Science and governments cannot eliminate “curses” of the Fall, especially *within* man. (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

**D. Recreating the Garden Family.** How can post-Fall conditions be remedied by godly love?

**E. 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 God’s purpose for marriage & families in this fallen world?
  - I Cor 7:13,16
  - I Pet 3:1
  - Eph 6:4
  - Prov 23:13-24
  - III John 3-4

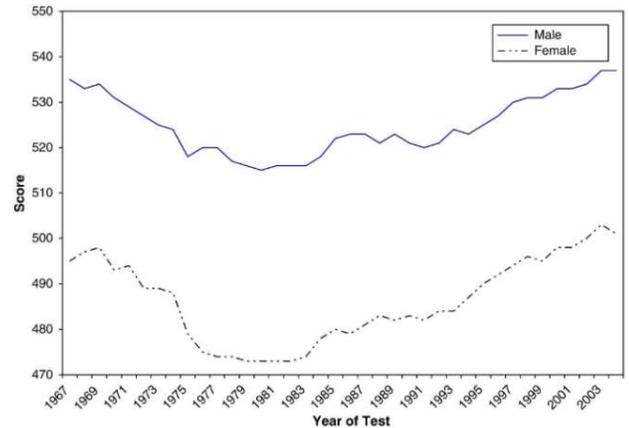
## 2 – Male Temperament and Assigned Roles

**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. Observed Male Characteristics<sup>1</sup>:** Dominance in and/or preference for:

1. Competition (with winners/losers) – 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. War heroism (driven by patriotism and/or revenge on evil)
5. Tinkering, building, craftsmanship, invention, math & science test performance<sup>2</sup>
6. Physical conflict, violent crimes, men commit:
  - 89% of homicides, 77.8% of aggravated assault
  - 87.9% of robberies, 85.0% of burglaries
  - 83.0% of arsons, 81.7% of vandalism
  - 81.5% of motor-vehicle theft
  - 79.7% of offenses against family & children.
7. Sexual aggression (domestic violence, harassment)
  - 98.9% of those arrested for forcible rape
  - Victims of domestic homicides (63.7% female) and sex-related homicides (81.7% female)
8. Perceptions of aggression (e.g. #metoo)



**C. Men and women in Bible teaching.**

1. Paul, as a [figurative] mother & father (I Thess. 2:7-9 and 2:10-12)
2. In ideal husband-wife relationships, who is the:
  - a. Protector / provider / redeemer (e.g. Ruth 3:8-9)?
  - b. Primary problem-solver, the stronger/less fragile (I Pet 3:7)?
  - c. Sacrificer, purifying influence, reputation builder, nourisher (Eph 5:25-26,28)
  - d. The source of emotional control, optimism, and Bible teaching (Col 3:19,21; I Cor 14:35)

**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

<sup>1</sup> See also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-of0LhNNijA>, from 25:55 to 30:15.

<sup>2</sup> Graph of SAT-Mathematics scores of entering college classes, 1967–2004, by sex; College Entrance Examination Board, 2004.

**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) –

**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

**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.

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

1. Patriarch (Gen 2:24; 4:20-21; 9:18; Prov 1:8) – Set family priority; lead household; teach
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. Military Leaders, Judges, Governors (Josh 23:2; Num 31:12-14, & 21; I Sam 8:10-13)
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 assignments (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, anxiety, and insecurity 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. 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? (Remember Lesson 1, part E)

**L. [Bonus] “Five Rules of Manhood”<sup>3</sup>**

1. Life is hard.
2. You are not important.
3. Your life is not about you.
4. You are not in control.
5. You are going to die.

<sup>3</sup>Richard Rohr, *Adam’s Return* (Chestnut Ridge, NY: Crossroad Publishing Company, 2017), p 42.

### 3 – 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 families? (e.g. I Cor 7:13, Eph 6:4; Prov 23:13-14...)
2. What duties are given to godly fathers? What knowledge & Skills are required?

Duties

Knowledge & Skills

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. I Tim 3:4,5</li> <li>b. Eph 6:4</li> <li>c. Col 3:21</li> <li>d. Heb 12:7,10</li> <li>e. Prov 13:24</li> <li>f. Deut 6:6-9; 20ff</li> <li>g. Prov 1:8; 22:6</li> <li>h. I Thess 2:10-11</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rule house well</li> <li>- Have children in submission, with reverence</li> <li>- Train &amp; admonish in the Lord</li> <li>- Do not provoke to wrath</li> <li>- Do not provoke/frustrate</li> <li>- Do not discourage</li> <li>- Discipline for their good (“train toward righteousness”)</li> <li>- Show love by [timely] discipline</li> <li>- Teach diligently</li> <li>- Answer questions (20ff)</li> <li>- Give instructions</li> <li>- Train for later years</li> <li>- Be blameless role model</li> <li>- Exhort, encourage, charge</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

3. God is our perfect Father (Matt 5:48). How can earthly fathers imitate Him (see part F)?

a. Flawless Character: Perfection, Holiness

b. Benevolence, Generosity, Unselfishness, Provision, Protection of children

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Matt 5:48 – Perfect (Context is love of enemies—very difficult!)</li> <li>o I Pet 1:16 – Holy (inside &amp; out)</li> <li>o Jas 1:13 – Not tempted, and doesn’t tempt others (only an influence for good)</li> <li>o Rom 9:14 – No unrighteousness (no past, present, or future sins)</li> <li>o Jas 1:17b – No variation: total consistency</li> <li>o Num 23:19; Titus 1:2 – No lies/variation (speaks only truth and keeps promises)</li> <li>o Rom 3:3,4 – True even if every man a liar</li> <li>o Rom 11:22 – Good &amp; severe: just &amp; kind (hates evil, loves good)</li> <li>o I Pet 1:17 – Judges without partiality</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Rom 8:31 – [Always working to our benefit] “If God is for us, who against us?”</li> <li>o Jas 1:17a; Matt 7:11; Luke 11:11-13 – Gives needed gifts</li> <li>o Jer 31:8,9 – Leads, protects from falling</li> <li>o Heb 12:7 – Chastens for child’s profit</li> <li>o Dt 1:31 – Bears his son through trouble</li> <li>o Matt 5:45 – Unconditional blessings (for deserving &amp; undeserving)</li> <li>o Jas 3:17 – Pure, peaceable, entreat-able</li> <li>o Ps 103:13; Lk 6:36; Ps 145:8,9 – pities; merciful; gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, kind</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

b. Benevolence... (continued)

- 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 Jn 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

c. 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 or 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

**C. 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 be able to do, to have?

1. Should we be setting goals for our children? (I Sam 1:11; III Jn 4; Prov 19:18)
2. Might these goals include: health, social skills, education, talents, income, leisure...?
3. 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)
4. Describe family plans and activities that would support goals in areas like:
  - a. intentional training, scheduled discussions, assessments, devotions, rituals, readings
  - b. choice of friends (set by parental guidance, living location, family activities, activity choices)
  - c. course of education (choice of school, courses, involvement, family reading/training)
  - d. number and types of school and extra-curricular activities, with stated purpose
  - e. budget awareness, level of debt, emphasis on status/comfort, benevolence,
  - f. travel, hobbies, entertainment activities, vacation “fun,”
  - g. priorities and standards placed on worship & Bible study attendance (in relation to b-f above)
5. What is the penalty for those who lead children astray from God? (Matt 18:6)

**D. Setting and Showing Priorities.**

1. How are priorities learned (and internalized) by children? How do we teach priorities?
2. 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).

**E. Setting Direction & Taking Initiative as Leader of the Family**

1. Do an assessment: urgent problems, strengths/weaknesses, risks, trends, potential
2. Make a strategic plan: end state, with 5-10 goals for spiritual growth by <set a time>
3. Initiate near-term actions: standards, habits, codes of conduct, corrections, milestones...

**F. Character Self-Assessment: Spiritual Character, Sacrifice/ Service, 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). I have obeyed the Gospel, and I am now a disciple, trying to grow daily.
- I believe that the Bible is God’s revealed Word: to 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 seek to learn about my wife & children's needs and anxieties in frequent 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) and research skills.
- 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 physical condition 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 find 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

## 4 – Spirit-filled Families in a Fallen World

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

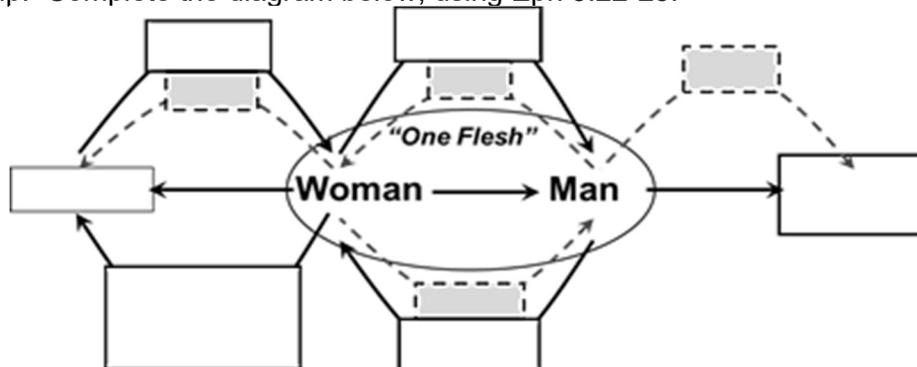
1. Created by God at the beginning
  - Male and female in God's image (Gen 1:27)
  - Created very good (Gen 1:31)
  - One Flesh (Gen 2:24) – suggesting permanence, sacrificial care, and fellowship
2. Corrupted by Sin and its consequences (Gen 3:1-19)
  - Adam/Eve – Temptation (3:6), Sin (3:6), Blame (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 had a plan to preserve faithfulness (through families)
  - Abraham (Gen 18:19)
  - Israelites (Deut. 6:6-9; 20-25)
  - NT: (I Cor 7:13,16; I Pet 3:1; Eph 6:4; Ill John 3-4)

### B. *Ephesians: The Recreated Family in Christ.*

1. References to Creation and Garden imagery in the Ephesian epistle:
  - Before the Creation (1:4, and see 3:9)
  - "Heavens & earth" (1:3-4, 10); Light vs Darkness (5:8)
  - Put His breath (Spirit) within us (1:13; 2:18; 3:16)
  - Made alive; Given life (2:1,5)
  - "His workmanship, created" (2:10); "Created one new man" (2:15); New man created (4:24)
  - Given dominion, in Christ (1:19-21)
  - Peace/Fellowship with God (2:17-18);
  - Stand against the wiles of the devil" (6:11)
2. Theme 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 in heaven and earth is named ..." (3:14-15)
  - "One God and Father of all..." (4:6)
  - "One body," all members working to grow up (4:4,16, as husbands/wives in 5:28-30)
  - [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 is the pattern for husbands' behavior. (Eph 5:31). 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's & wife's needs are fulfilled by the other:
  - The man's "natural" tendency to rule over women is fulfilled by subjection/honor from his wife.
  - The woman's "natural" dependency on the man is fulfilled by love from her husband.

**D. *The Family of the New Man in Christ (Eph 4, 5).*** What do the qualities of the new man created in Christ, listed below require of family members? List practical actions and changes you can make soon.

1. Unity & Peace (4:1-3)
  - Enabled by lowliness, gentleness, patience, forbearance (4:2)...and forgiveness (32).
  - Initiative and energy applied: “diligence,” an “endeavor” (4:3)
  - A work together [collocated]: each member does its share in love (4:12,16)
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).

**E. *Expect Difficulties***

1. Can any of the above be initiated/implemented unilaterally (see, for example I Pet 3:1-6)
2. Does God expect us to put on this character no matter the opposition?
3. With what images does the Ephesian letter follow (see Eph 6:10-17)

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

1. How common are the above behaviors in the World’s families? Why?
2. How well accepted or understood are these behaviors in the World? Why?
3. What empowers this 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

## 5 – 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. [Review] 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. [Review] 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? Note that “wisdom” is not how much one knows or how much experience he has (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 willingness to forgive quickly (including 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
4. 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 with the child about the “danger zones”.
  - Look for explanations and solutions together; Solicit suggestions about assistance
7. Praise often for compliance
  - (Even for unintended—or habitual behavior): 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><b>Folly</b></u>	<u><b>Demonstrated Wisdom</b></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

## 7 – 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.

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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.

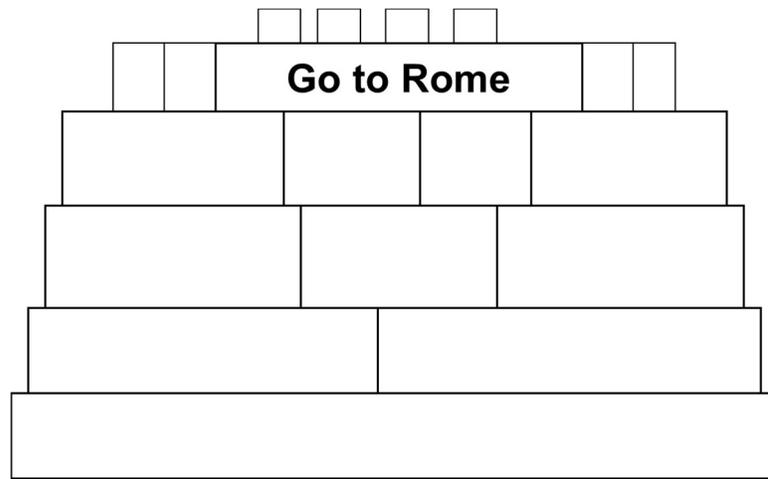
⑧ \_\_\_\_\_

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

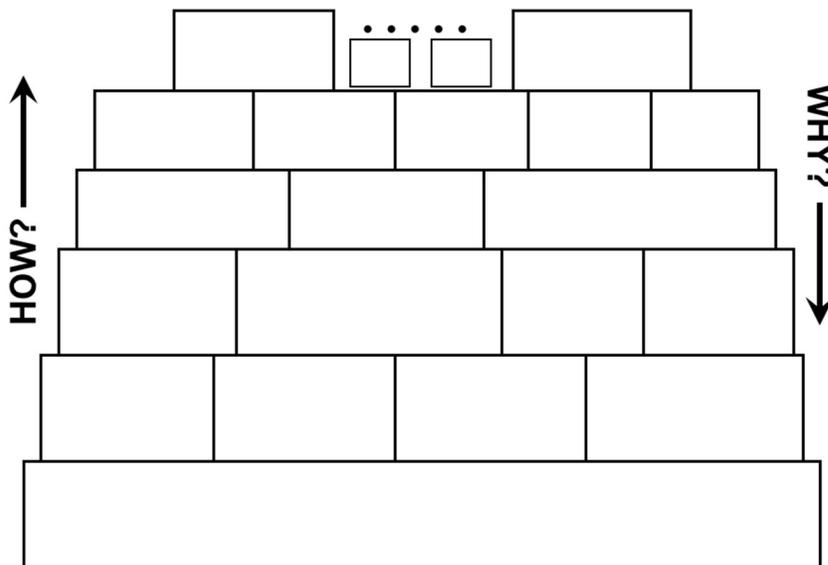
1. Do you detect dependencies between some of these reasons?  
List one or two reasons which are related.
2. Are some of these "incidental," meaning that they are good, but not a sufficient?
3. Do some of these benefit other people?
4. Do some of these benefit Paul himself?
5. Are some likely to change, or could become invalid if circumstances change?
6. Are there some that will never change?
7. Could these be put in an order of importance? 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—the ultimate “Why”— that 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.*** (Jeremiah 17:9-10)