

Women in Christian Service

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LESSON 1

God's Requirements for Service

I. Salvation

A. Be born again – Of water and of spirit

1. John 3:1-7
2. John 1:11-13
3. Titus 3:5

B. A work of the Holy Spirit

1. II Corinthians 7:10 coupled with John 16:7-11

C. One cannot understand spiritual things without it. I Corinthians 2:14

II. Dedication

A. Giving God what is already His Romans 12:1-2

1. By Creation
2. By Redemption

B. Some do this at the time of salvation

1. Total understanding may not be until later
2. There should and must be a definite decision made if we are to have our hearts ready for whatever the Lord calls on us to do.
3. Proverbs 3:5,6
4. Ecclesiastes 5:1-5

III. Fellowship

A. With the Father and His Son - I. John 1:3-9

B. With Believers – II Corinthians 6:14-18

C. Touch not the unclean

IV. Obedience

A. John 14:21

B. I Samuel 15:22,23

C. The Precious Hiding Place

1. Ephesians 2:1,2 (quickened – made alive) (dead in trespasses & sin – aligned with Satan)
2. Ephesians 2:10 (His workmanship)
3. Ephesians 4:1-3 (meekness – humility of spirit that never takes offense)
4. Ephesians 4:17-20 (our walk – lasciviousness – loose, lustful)
5. Ephesians 5:1,2 (Put up with the oddities of others and love them just the same)
6. Ephesians 5:8-12 (Walk as children of light)

7. Galatians 5:16(Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh)
 8. Colossians 4:5(Walk in wisdom toward them that are without)
- D. Necessary to being used of God
1. Obedience – John 14:21
 - a. Christ will manifest Himself to the obedient Christian
 - b. A more personal relationship with Him
 2. The Word
 - a. Cleanses the life - Psalm 119:9,11
 - b. A tool for witnessing (Mark your Bible in chain)
 3. Prayer – John 16:24
 4. Witnessing – Acts 1:8
 5. Abide in Christ – John 15:1-7; Philippians 4:13 (“all things through Christ” – I Tim. 1:12- He enables)
- E. A clean vessel
1. Confess sin (Ask God to make you aware of sin – Learn to recognize it)
 2. Forsake sin – I John 1:7-10 (Darkness is the absence of the knowledge of God)
 3. Walk in fellowship with God (Sins confessed and forsaken)

LESSON 2

Our Personal Time with God

- I. Your life cannot be fulfilled alone. You must look to your Savior for guidance and help through prayer and total commitment to God.
 - A. It is good to start the day with the Lord.
 1. Every day decisions are made, actions are taken and we react to people and circumstances. – Romans 14:7 – “For none of us liveth to himself...”
 2. Being aware that we need God’s help in all these areas, it is important that we do not wait until the end of the day to seek His help.
 - B. Call upon the Lord moment by moment as the need arises.
 1. When we need His forgiveness
 2. When we need His wisdom – James 1:5; Psalm 110:10
 3. When we need victory over circumstances - Our reaction and response to difficulty determines the effectiveness of our testimony. – Acts 16:25 – “... Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God...”
 4. When we need to make an important decision. – Psalm 62:5; Psalm 130:5
 - a. All decisions effect our lives and the lives of others. We do not live for ourselves alone.
 5. When we see a need in the life of a friend or loved one.
 - a. This is particularly true in the lives of our children or husband. It is important that we pray for them.
 - C. Keep a prayer journal. (Maude Abbott) 5 of her 7 children are in full-time service.
 1. Remember our children have the same needs that we do.
 - a. Physical
 - b. Emotional
 - c. Financial
 - d. In making decisions regarding employment, etc.
 - e. In rearing their children
 - D. A “special time with God” (Matt. 14:23 – “..He went up into a mountain apart to pray;..”)
 1. A quiet time.- Matt. 6:9-13 “After this manner therefore pray ye:”
 - a. A time of praise and worship – Psalm 107:8
 - b. A time of thanksgiving –Philippians 4:6
 - c. A time of getting to know Him better through His Word. Matthew 4:4; Psalm 86:11; Psalm 119:105
 - d. A time of heart-searching – Psalm 139:23 – “Search me, O God...”
 - e. A time of recognizing and confessing sin – I John 1:9 – Psalm 51:10

- f. A time of bringing our needs before His throne – Psalm 55:22; Matthew 7:7,8
- 2. Organize your “Quiet Time” with the Lord
 - a. Make a list of all the things you want to pray for. For example, family, finances, church, missionaries and personal needs.
 - b. Prepare a small notebook (5 1/2 x 8 1/2) with tabs for each day of the week. On each day choose one category for your emphasis in prayer. As new prayer requests develop, filter them under each tab.
 - c. In a medium sized basket, place your Bible, prayer notebook & a box of Keenex,
 - d. Place the basket on the kitchen table or near your favorite chair.
 - e. Schedule a daily time to spend quality time with the Lord. Maybe 5–50 minutes
- E. Remember that God tells us to pray for government leaders, church leaders, and all those who have control over our lives. They are making decisions, too. Romans 13:1
 - 1. This could also include the government leaders under whom our missionaries serve. It is great to know that we can visit other countries in prayer and have a definite part in the ministries being conducted there. (Clip coupons for extra way to give)

LESSON 3

God's Word – Our Manual & Manna

- I. The only way to obtain eternal life – I John 5:11,12. Salvation is just the beginning.
It is our responsibility to not only live by the Word, but to pass the truths of God's Word on to our children. "Diligently" - Deuteronomy 6:6-7
- II. Truths to live by:
- A. Acts 4:12 – "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
 - B. Proverbs 5:21 "For the ways of man are before the Lord, "
 - C. A lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Psalm 119:105
 - D. James 4:17—"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
 - E. The answer to temptation – Matthew 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."
 - F. We are a new creation in Christ. – II Corinthians 5:17
 - 1. Ephesians 4:22-24 "Put ye off concerning the former conversation the old man...and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Replacement Principle a must)
 - 2. Galatians 2:20 – "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
 - G. Galatians 6:7 – "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Man is responsible for his own actions.)
 - H. Nehemiah 8:10 "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength." – Only present when there is no broken fellowship. Our song should not be, "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" – The spotlight should be on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - I. Colossians 3:9 – "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds."
 - J. Our choice of friends will make us or break us. – II Corinthians 6:14-17
 - K. I Corinthians 6:19,20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"
 - L. God's Word is truth – John 17:17
 - M. John 14:21 – He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."
 - N. I Samuel 15:22,23 – "...Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (witchcraft is serving Satan), and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..."

- III. A suggestion for Bible study is Scripture analysis.
- A. Choose verse or passage
 - B. Read the passage several times. List the important words and look them up in the dictionary.
 - C. To whom is the passage speaking?
 - D. What does the passage require of the person to whom it is speaking?
 - E. Give a general outline of the passage.
 - F. Re-write the passage in your own words using the definitions you have found.
 - G. Tell how the passage has spoken to you or helped you.

LESSON 4

Taking the Form of a Servant

- I. Reason for Service
 - A. Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 20:27,28; Romans 6:16,22
 - B. Follow Christ's example to show His nature
 - C. A wonderful way to open doors for witnessing – (Illustration of the Gospel Blimp)
 - D. Helps us with our problems. Puts our minds and attention on others.
 - E. Enhances our testimony
 - F. “Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,
Do not wait to shed your light afar.
To the many duties ever near you now be true
Brighten the corner where you are.”
- II. Areas of Service – Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
 - A. Our home
 - B. Our church
 - C. Our neighborhood
 - D. Our family
 - E. Our community
 - F. Our workplace
- III. Tools of Service
 - A. Our automobiles
 - B. Our cupboard
 - C. Our finances
 - D. Our acts of kindness
 - E. Our prayer burden
 - F. Our friendship
 - G. Our e-mail
 - H. Our library
 - I. Our talents – Philippians 2:3
 - 1. Every body has some talent
 - a. Be yourself, do not try to imitate someone else.
 - b. Talents do not only include music, speaking ability, etc.
God will use any ability yielded to Him. The greatest ability is dependability

IV. Objects of Service

- A. Our husband
- B. Our children
- C. Our church family
- D. Our missionaries
 - 1. Wives need “a friend back home”
 - 2. A “stopping off place”
 - 3. A prayer partner
- E. Our extended family
- F. Our fellow workers
- G. Our neighbors
- H. Our government

- V. Philippians 2:5-7 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took on the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

LESSON 5

The Church

- I. The church you chose should follow God's Word and sound doctrine.
 - A. The Scripture used should be as close to the original languages as possible. We suggest the King James 1611 version.
 - B. Learn what you believe and be able to back it up with Scripture.
 - 1. This includes having a Scriptural reason for what you do and how you do it.
 - 2. Do not base your beliefs simply on what someone has told you.
 - 3. Some things are named clearly in Scripture. Others are covered in principle.
(Example: Smoking, proper dress, honesty, etc.)
- II. Following Leadership
 - A. Pastor (God's under-shepherd)
 - 1. He is responsible first and foremost to God Himself. This is an awesome responsibility that he does not take lightly.
 - B. All leadership should be followed with respect to the position held.
 - C. God is the one who appoints leadership. If a leader makes a mistake or handles something poorly, we are still to follow the leadership. Our responsibility is to pray for the leaders, not to accuse. Constructive criticism is appreciated but griping is destructive.
- III. The Church has a testimony to maintain in the neighborhood.
 - A. Our giving should be consistent.
 - B. Our help with the cleanliness and upkeep of the properties is important.
 - C. Our personal testimony reflects on the Church.
- IV. Relationships in the Church
 - A. Use extreme care with relationships with the opposite sex.
 - B. It is always wise to use an "open door" policy when counseling or carrying on church business.
 - C. Physical contact with the opposite sex should always be discrete. (Illustration of Karen and Johnny. Also with the Johnsons and the Campbells)
- V. Positions in the Church – God has a place for everyone of us.
 - A. All positions are important and necessary to the carrying out of the ministry.
 - 1. Preaching and teaching
 - 2. Deacons and Trustees
 - 3. Choir director and choir members
 - 4. Those who clean and maintain the properties
 - 5. Ushers and greeters
 - 6. Prayer warriors
 - B. All positions should be appreciated and given our prayer support and respect.

VI. The Church Services

- A. A time of worship. We should prepare our hearts in advance.
- B. Be aware of those around you and be ready to give assistance when needed. This may be needed especially for children or young people who do not have parents with them. Do not be offended if some other adult “helps” your child in this way.
- C. Keep interruptions to a minimum. Use the restroom before you enter the sanctuary and be sure your children do also.
- D. Be on time! Late comers often disrupt the spirit of the service.
- E. Dress up when you come to church. The way we dress does effect our attitude toward what we are doing. This is not to impress others, but to show respect to God, His church, and the seriousness of the occasion.

VII. Remember God established the Church. It belongs to Him, and so do you.

LESSON 6

Decorating the Temple

- I. Who are we?
 - A. Children of God – John 1:12 and Galatians 3:26
 - 1. Heirs with Christ – Romans 8:17 and Titus 3:5-7
 - 2. Ambassadors for Christ – II Corinthians 5:20 – WE REPRESENT HIM. Do we deny Him with our appearance? Do we uphold our family name?
 - B. Temple of the Holy Spirit – I Corinthians 3:16,17 and 6:19,20
 - C. Christ lives in me – Galatians 2:20
 - 1. Glorify God in your body and in your spirit. – I Corinthians 10:21 and 31
 - 2. Abstain from all appearance of evil. – I Thessalonians 5:22
 - 3. Serve the Lord with all your heart. – I Samuel 12:24
- II. Do not follow the world's philosophy. – Colossians 2:8 – “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” – I Peter 1:14-16 – As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
 - A. Forget those things that are behind. – Philippians 3:13; Psalm 40:2-3 – “He hath brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.”
 - B. Walk in the Spirit – Galatians 5:16,17 ”...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”
 - C. Do not envy those who do not know the Lord. - Psalm 37:1 – “Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.”
- III. Our responsibility as women
 - A. Meek and quiet spirit – I Peter 3:1-4
 - B. Subjection to our own husband – Matthew 19:5-6 – We are one flesh. We are privately his and do not belong to anyone else.
 - C. Apparel which becomes women professing godliness. I Timothy 2:9,10 – “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But with good works.”
 - D. Give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. – I Timothy 5:14 – “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”
 - E. Older women – Titus 1:3-5
 - 1. Behavior which becomes holiness

2. Not false accusers
 3. Teachers of good things
- IV. A good rule to follow in our dress: “Lots, long, loose and ladylike.”
- A. Clean, pressed and mended if necessary
 - B. Not revealing – (Long slits, low necklines, etc.)
- V. Forbearance – I Corinthians 8:9 – “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak.”
- A. Clothing that will not cause men to sin. (The Muslims required that their women be completely covered not for the protection of the women, but of the men.)
 - B. It is our responsibility to not only win souls to Christ, but also to edify and strengthen other Christians.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. You will be what you are now becoming – and so will your children.
2. Everything we do teaches something – good or bad.
3. We can either be precious jewels or fakes. – diamonds or dime store jewelry.
4. Our clothes do talk. – Matthew 12:34,35 – “...for out of the abundance of heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”
5. Being slouchy does not glorify God.
6. We should not ask “how short is short?” or “How long is long?” but “How can I best glorify Christ?”
7. The way we dress effects how we do a job. Many successful businesses require dress codes.
8. There are no different rules for pastor’s wives, missionaries, or any Christian.
9. We should not have conflicting standards in the home and church.
10. The way we walk and display our clothes is important. (Stand, sit, walk)
11. Clothes set moods and show attitudes. Also attitudes toward authority. “My pastor says, but I don’t agree.” Clothes are an area where many people want to see just how close they can come to the world.
12. Hair and clothes are used of women to tempt men. “If there is doubt, it’s dirty.” Matthew 5:28
13. Much makeup, elaborate “decking” and few clothes are still a sign of worldly women.
14. There is only one man in the world I should want to satisfy and please. God has one man for one woman. The private parts of our body belong only to him. We should dress to please our husband and our Lord.
15. Girls and ladies should be feminine. Unisex, Women’s Lib, and Homosexuality foster the wrong dress.
16. Though you may be young, you can still lead the way. – I Timothy 4:12...”be thou an

example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

17. Who do you dress to please? God will bless a search for the right things.

GOD STILL HAS A DRESS CODE

Deuteronomy 22:5

“While the Evolutionists are trying to convince us that we evolved from some lower form of animal, millions have gone Neanderthal to prove it. One almost dreads to see summer arrive for fear that the sweat suits and stretch pants will turn into strapless bras and leopard spotted leotards, unbuttoned, unzipped and untied.

Sad to say, some churches have joined the “undressed parade” and encourage people to..”come as you are” and sure enough people do just that. I see some people come to church with a wardrobe with a total worth of \$1.50.

I know the Lord looks on the heart and clothes don’t necessarily make a man. But whatever happed to our Sunday best?

Once upon a time, public places had signs reading, “Gentlemen will wear ties.” Now they are requesting, “Gentlemen will wear trousers.”

The real low in the “come as you areness” is the new “wet look” for women. They appear with a stringy looking uncombed hairdo that looks as though they just emerged from a shower. I read last year where a woman was arrested for going downtown shopping in curlers and pajamas.

Many of them should be arrested for just going downtown. “Just as I am” is an invitation for sinners, not a description of how we should dress for church. The prodigal son may have left the hog pen in rags, but as soon as he arrived home his father clothed him with a fine robe, put shoes on his feet and a ring on his finger.

One side effect of this undressed, uncombed and uncouth look is the mental attitude I produces. Our spiritual lives take on this “come as you are” syndrome and produces a laid-back, mellowed-out and “spiritual” look. The local church has become the “sanctuary of the sloppy” and the “temple of the tacky.” Why not get a spiritual haircut, put your testimony shirttail in and put a shine on your Gospel shoes.”

Brother Wiley Cameron

LESSON 7

Your Home and Hospitality

- I. Your home speaks – It doesn't have to be elaborate.
 - A. Clean
 - 1. Orderly
 - 2. Smelling good
 - B. Small amounts of clutter needed to do every day tasks are no problem.
 - C. Pleasant
 - D. Comfortable
 - 1. Not so perfect that people feel uncomfortable.
- II. Open for God's use – II Kings 4
 - A. The widow shared with God's servant, Elisha. – Vs. 1-7
 - B. The Shunemite woman – Vs. 8-37
 - 1. Concerned about the needs of the man of God (Elisha) Invited him to eat with them
 - 2. Suggested to her husband that they make a little chamber with a bed, table, stool and candlestick where the man of God could stay when he came that way.
 - C. Lydia – Acts 16:14
 - 1. A business woman – seller of purple (may have sold various items)
 - 2. May not have been of Jewish descent and may have been a widow.
 - 3. Opened her heart to Paul's message and was attentive unto the things of God
 - 4. Was baptized and her household. (The other members followed her example.)
 - 5. "If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and abide there."
 - D. Priscilla – Acts 18:2,3
 - 1. She and her husband, Aquilla, were tentmakers.
 - 2. Took in Paul, who was also a tentmaker by trade. Provided him with lodging and employment.
 - 3. She was a lady of self-sacrifice. In addition to their business responsibilities, she not only provided food and comfort for Paul, but also housed the church. – I Cor. 16:19
- III. Suggestions for making your home a place in which to serve the Lord.
 - A. Keep your home orderly at all times. – I Cor. 14:33 – God is not the author of confusion.
 - 1. Have a place for everything and put things back in their place. Teach your children to be orderly. This principle will effect every area of their lives.
 - B. Guard your marriage and bedroom

- C. Have a guestroom. (Maybe one of your children's rooms can be a "special" place for guests.) Single beds are the best.
- D. Keep on hand a few items of food that can easily be prepared should unexpected guests arrive. These do not have to be elaborate or expensive. Be willing to share what you have.
- E. Keep a few towels just for guests.
- F. Get the supplies and things you need a few at a time.
- G. Make your guests feel at home. This does not mean that every room, every closet, are open for their use. Your children should not be allowed to entertain guests of the opposite sex in their bedrooms.
- H. Remember your ministry in the home is a corporate effort. Teach your children that your home is a definite place of ministry.
- I. Entertaining missionaries, evangelists, etc., helps your children to make them the "heroes" of their lives.

LESSON 8

Finances

A BASIC PRINCIPLE TO REMEMBER: “To the Christian there is no difference between the secular and sacred. Every bush is a burning bush and every place a temple of worship.”

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

- I. Romans 12:11 – “Not slothful in business; (lazy or careless) fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”
 - A. Proverbs 19:13,14 – “...and a prudent wife is from the Lord.”
 1. Cautious, careful, not extravagant. (not wasteful nor unrestrained)
- II. Be content with what the Lord provides. – Hebrews 13:5 – “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”
- III. The handling of our finances is definitely part of our testimony. – Philippians 2:15 – “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”
 - A. We are to think on things that are honest, just and of a good report. – Philippians 4:8
- IV. We are to serve the Lord with our substance. – Luke 8:3 – Here we find women whom the Lord had healed or otherwise were grateful to Him “ministered unto Him with their substance” (everything we own)
 - A. Our gifts and offerings to Him are evidence of our appreciation for what He has done for us. It is only reasonable, therefore, that our tithes and gifts to Him should be first place in our budget.
 - B. Proverbs 3:9 – “Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of thine increase.
- V. Suggestions for good financial planning
 - A. Every pay period, make a list of what needs to be paid. List your tithe first. Include such things as rent, food, utilities, payments due.
 - B. Plan ahead for the unexpected or payments due throughout the year on insurance, etc.
 - C. Do not enter into a contract with anyone unless you have good reason to believe you can meet the required payments on time.
 - D. IF YOU ARE LAID OFF, OR SOME SICKNESS PREVENTS YOU FROM MEETING YOUR OBLIGATION, BE SURE TO CONTACT THE BUSINESS AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. THEN HONOR THOSE ARRANGEMENTS.
 - E. Check out your eating and drinking habits. Many times we can save money in these areas and benefit our health at the same time.
 - F. Portion out your food items, which may be bought more cheaply in large amounts.
 - G. Shop for quality clothing. Be sure to check fabric contents and washing instructions.
 - H. Have a place for your bills as they arrive. Be sure they reach their destination on time.
 - I. If you use credit cards, be sure you do not charge more than you can pay off without paying interest or carrying charges. Never pay the “minimum amount due”

- J. On large items such as car payments, etc., you can always pay a little extra and request that it be applied to the principal.
- VI. God is not the author of confusion
 - A. This is particularly true with finances
 - B. WE CAN CHANGE! Do not take the attitude “That’s just the way I am.”
 - C. James 4:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” Double-minded denotes an uncertain wavering state of mind. It implies instability, unsettledness, and perhaps even deceitfulness. – Philippians 2:5 – “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:8 – “...true, ...honest, ...just, ...pure, ...of good report...”
 - D. Psalm 25:4 – “Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.” This can be our prayer in every area of our lives – including finances

LESSON 9

Our Mind, Our Control Room

I. Our minds need to be renewed – (New ideas and a new attitude)

Romans 12:1,2 – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies (both members and faculties) a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”

A. I. Peter 3:8 – “...be ye all of one mind”

1. Having compassion one for another
2. Love as brethren
3. Pitiful – Ephesians 4:32,32
4. Courteous
5. Not rendering evil for evil or railing for railing (tongue-lashing, berating.
6. On the contrary, praying for their welfare

II. II Corinthians 10:5 – “Casting down imaginations (reasonings), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

III. Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest any man spoil you (become a victim of prey) through philosophy or vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” – Ephesians 4:17-20

IV. Vain thoughts are a pre-requisite to evil deeds. Good thoughts bring forth good actions.

Micah 2:1 “Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! When the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.”

Matthew 12:34,35 – “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Philippians 4:8 – “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise think on these things.” Fix your minds on these things.

V. How do we go about “renewing our minds”?

A. By the “replacement theory” – Just as in the renovation of an old building, the rotten materials have to be torn out and all new materials put in their place.

1. Get all of the wrong kind of literature, videos and music out of your home. Destroy it!
 - a. Magazines and catalogs can be the worst. Your children will pick them up.
 - b. Have an understanding with your family about these things.
2. Purchase new literature, videos and music. Get them a few at a time, but get them!
3. Choose friends with like convictions. – Ephesians 5:19 – “Speaking to

(among) yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;” – Colossians 3:16 – “...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

4. Psalm 40:2 “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.”

- VI. What do the things you hear, see, and think upon cause you to want to do? This is a good test if we are in doubt. If it is doubtful, it is probably dirty.
- VII. Our prayer should be – Psalm 51:10 – “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” – Psalm 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

LESSON 10

Date Manners

- I. Requirements for prospective mate
 - A. Born-again Christian
 - B. Serving the Lord already
 - 1. Observe his attitudes toward leadership
 - 2. In order to be a leader, he must be able to also follow leadership
- II. Requirements for the one with whom you will spend the rest of your life
 - A. Is he a gentleman?
 - B. Does he keep a job?
 - C. Is he considerate of brothers and sisters?
 - D. Is he prompt?
 - E. Does he keep his word?
 - F. Is he orderly in his thinking?
 - G. Is he concerned about your health and safety?
 - H. Is he patient, kind and never jealous?
- III. Characteristics of counterfeit love
 - A. Selfish
 - B. Unclean – Fleshly – Passionate - Impure
 - C. Shady - Deceitful
 - D. Unmannerly - Thankless
 - E. Jealous
- IV. Date Rules
 - A. Crowd dating is fun. You can pick out your favorites without obligation.
 - B. Christians can get involved with unscriptural marriages through the wrong friendships while dating.
 - C. You have a right to know about his character, background, etc.
 - D. Only the boy originates the date plans. Girls should not be aggressive.
 - E. If you do not wish to date a young man, say “No” courteously, calmly, definitely and stick to it.
 - F. If you wish to date a young man, the next step is to consult Mother and Dad. Accept only if they agree.
 - G. When he drives up to the house, he should come to the door, never just honk. He should then meet her parents and ask them what time he should have their daughter home. He should keep his word!
 - H. A young lady should be ready when it is date time—or maybe a teeny bit late that gives her parents time to meet the young man. When he is invited in, he should wait in the living area – not following the young lady to her room or bathroom as she

finishes getting ready. He should never enter the home if the parents are away.

- I. A gentleman always opens the car door for the young lady, helps her in and then gets in on his side. He now has the responsibility for her safety.
- J. The places you go should be in keeping with your Christian standards and your parent's wishes. Plans made ahead of time give you a feeling of security.
- K. Your parents should decide when you begin to date or how often you date. It is a pleasure as well as a safeguard to enjoy the approval of your parents.
- L. Upon returning home from a date, he should thank her. She should say "I have had a wonderful time," etc. A girl is not under obligation to kiss a boy if he asks. It is certainly not "pay" for the evening. His pay has been the pleasure of her company.
- M. Kisses are the language of true love. They are rich treasures for those God has reserved to be "one flesh" as husband and wife. Ladies should not cheapen themselves by allowing intimacies. Your body is sacred, set aside for God's use, held in reverence.

V. Away from home manners

- A. If the boy stops by and your folks are not home, he should be on his way. Young people could avoid many tragedies if they observe this rule.
- B. If he is invited in and the parents are at home, he should take into consideration the homework she has to do, other guests, etc. He should never take over the stereo or TV or stay too late. He may go into the kitchen or dining room upon invitation, but never goes to the girls bedroom or follows her to the bathroom while she combs her hair or puts makeup on, etc.
- C. A girl NEVER visits a boys home without a direct invitation from his mother. Be neat, courteous, cooperative in all the ways of the household.
- D. If you are a houseguest in the home of a friend or relative, keep your room tidy. Make your bed and leave the bathroom immaculate—no trace of your having been in it.
- E. Be careful to avoid scratching furniture, spilling things on it, etc. Do not "borrow" your hostess's belongings without permission.
- F. Get in and out of the bathroom as quickly as possible.
- G. Respect a reasonable bedtime. Remember, your hostess should not have to send you to bed, or ask you to leave if you are visiting for the evening.
- H. Promptness at mealtime is a must. If you are served something you don't like, simply say, "No thanks".
- I. It is a gracious habit to bring a "hostess gift". This should be simple.
- J. Always send a "thank you" note. The root of being well liked is simply thoughtful behavior and gratitude.

VI. Automobile Manners

- A. Drive carefully and courteously. When one gets out on the highway, he is no longer a private person, but a public character. If he is not careful, he may become a public enemy.
- B. Don't drive if you have had a quarrel or are upset. A lady should have a calming and

helpful influence on the gentleman driving.

- C. Don't encourage "show off" driving in others.
- D. Do not overload your car. Don't touch or distract the driver. The automobile is the most lethal weapon on earth. Be a safe, happy, Christian driver.

VII. Love's Manners

- A. God is the Maker of love. - I Corinthians 13:4-8
- B. Love is built on mutual respect
- C. Often young people go through more than one experience of being in love. Engagements may even be broken. If you have conducted yourself as a Christian lady in the experience, there will be no regrets and you can look back upon it as a good thing which has prepared you for the "one and only".
- D. Your ideas, goals, likes, and dislikes will change considerably over the years. Someone who seems perfect for you now may not be the least bit interesting to you next year. Don't "tie up" too soon. Divorce is devastating.
- E. The key word to true love is "honor"
- F. God's love is only effective when expressed God's way.
- G. If he is to honor you and your body, you should always remember to honor him too.
- H. "Petting" is out of bounds for the Christian who is unmarried. Your "hands off" attitude will help him be what God wants him to be. – I. Corinthians 7:1 "...It is good for a man not to touch (affectionately handle) a woman." – I Corinthians 3:16,17 ..."ye are the temple of God...for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." – I Cor. 10:13 The way to escape is often our two feet. Get up and get out of the place of temptation.

LESSON 11

Christians Should Have Good Manners

- I. Manners are not merely for the sophisticated. They are normal – not acting – a part of you.
 - A. Desirable because they are right and based on Scriptural principles: honesty, unselfishness, consideration, kindness, thoughtfulness and love.
 - B. Manners pay off. Your life will be richer, happier and your accomplishments greater.
 - C. Manners come from the inside out. Matthew 15:18-20 “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile a man...evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man”
 - D. Our responsibility is to present, yield and surrender ourselves to the Lord – not in a passive way, but actively.
- II. Manners at home
 - A. Must be sincere. It is where those we love dwell
 - B. Mother and Dad
 - 1. Obedience – Ephesians 6:1 – Should be prompt and from the heart. We are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit.
 - 2. With honor – esteem them highly – hold them precious
 - C. Brothers and sisters – Make a determined effort to get along with them. Do not berate them.
 - D. Your home itself – I Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”
 - 1. Have a part in the maintenance of it. Do a job right – you will enjoy it and be pleased with the results.
 - E. Personal privacy – respect the privacy of other family members.
- III. Manners at school
 - A. Treat the teacher with respect and honor.
 - B. Have a thirst for knowledge. God has filled the world with wonderful things to see, understand and use. He will use all the “tools” of knowledge that we can store.
 - C. Get good grades, not for your sake alone, but for the sake of your testimony. It is no disgrace to fail, but it is a sin to do less than our best to keep from failing.
 - D. School days have a lot to do with your future. God has a job for you to do.
 - E. The key – the consideration of others.
 - 1. Be friendly – Proverbs 18:24 “A man that hath friends must show himself friendly...”
 - 2. Do not follow the unworthy. Choose your friends wisely.
 - F. Dress at school should not be careless. Dress affects mental attitudes and study habits.
 - 1. Clothes do not “make a man” but they influence his manners.
 - G. Should Christians seek leadership? Of course! For the right reason – to honor the

Lord.

1. Be courteous to those who serve with you – we're co-laborers
2. Let everyone know from the start where you stand in regard to honesty and morality and declare without apology your allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ.

H. Witnessing – whether at school or elsewhere should be done sweetly, lovingly, earnestly and humbly.

IV. Manners at Church – Where 2 or 3 are gathered together, God has promised to be there in person. This should make all the difference in the world in our attitude and conduct.

- A. Go to church with a desire to meet Him and receive from Him what we need for strength in our every day lives. It is not a place to meet people, hear the latest gossip, etc.
- B. "Sunday go-to-meeting" clothes should be the best we can afford. They should be conservative and not "sporty". Clothes effect our attitude.
- C. Join in the singing, responsive readings, and listen to announcements, sermon, etc.
- D. It is bad manners to address the minister as "Reverend" Smith. A minister who holds a doctor's degree may be called "Dr. Smith" but many ministers prefer "Pastor Smith" or "Brother Smith." Pastor means shepherd.
- E. Running, loud talking or any kind of boisterousness should not be allowed in the sanctuary.
 1. Special reverence should characterize the communion service. I Cor. 11:23-29
- F. Sunday School – a place to learn more about our Lord and how to serve Him
 1. The teacher is chosen of God to represent Him and carry His message to us.
 - a. Demands respect and attention.
- G. Instruct children concerning these things on a regular basis. Repetition aids learning.

V. ABC's of Good Manners – knowledge of what to do and how to do it becomes a happy passport to well-adjusted living. Social misfits, unsure of themselves, become rebels against all authority.

- A. Men should always show deference (heed to the wishes of) to women. I Peter 3:7
- B. Women precede men except in cases of danger where the man goes first.
- C. The man always opens the door for the lady.
- D. The man walks on the outside of the sidewalk next to the curb.
- E. When shaking hands, the lady should extend her hand first. If she does not do this, the man should not extend his.
- F. If the girl does not speak, the man should not.
- G. A man gets off the train or bus first, waits at the door, and assists the lady.

VI. Don'ts of Good Manners

- A. Don't call older people by their first names.
- B. Don't put your hands on people when you are talking with them. Never, never fuss with each other's neckties, necklaces, or other personal wear.

- C. Do not point. The only exception is when giving directions

VII. More general rules of good manners

A. Getting up

1. Men should always rise when ladies enter their presence.
2. Young people should rise when older folk enter the room and remain standing until the older person is seated. (It is a gracious habit to make sure there are enough seats for the older folk.) There may be some question as to whether a girl should rise for an older man. This may not be required, but respect is never out of place.

B. Callers at home

1. Social callers should be invited in and seated. Then call the person they want. Do not “yell” from one end of the house to the other.
 - a. Unexpected visitors are a real test of courtesy and hospitality. It is important to appear pleased to see people.
 - b. A hospitable house is a magnet that attracts many friends. Romans 12:13 “Distributing to the necessity of the saints; given to hospitality.”
2. Do not drag wet, muddy clothes into another’s house. Check your shoes.
3. If you are a guest, don’t roam around the house uninvited. Even another girl friend should not go into your room uninvited.
 - a. Remember to be a good hostess. Don’t leave your friend standing at the door. Invite the guest to be seated.
4. If you are going to get something to eat or drink, remember to ask your guest if he or she would like something. This applies to family members as well.

VIII. Introductions

- A. Present the man to the woman, the younger to the older. Mention the first name of the person who is being presented. “Mrs. Smith, may I present my father, John Jones?” “Mrs. Smith, this is Mary James.”
- B. Circumstances may control the action. One can’t make a mistake in being courteous to the elders and superiors and respect in the younger for the older is a beautiful thing.
- C. The one who is doing the introducing says, “May I present?” or “May I introduce?” or “I’d like you to meet.” Be courteous and friendly. The response is simple: “How do you do?” “I’m very happy to meet you.” Say something natural, sincere and friendly.
- D. When introducing one person to a group, get the group’s attention and say, “This is Mary Smith. She wants to know all of you so I’ll bring her around.”
- E. Sometimes you have to introduce yourself. Go up to the person, hold out your hand and say, “I’m Suzie Jones.” Mention friends you have in common, etc., and the conversation will go from there. Show a definite interest in the other person.
- F. Practice good manners at home. It will become a part of your nature and will be easier when you are out.

IX. Speaking Up

- A. The language of good manners never goes out of style. It is always correct to say “Please” and “Thank you.” Thank others for any favor or compliment or kindness.
- B. “Excuse me,” and “I beg your pardon” belong in the vocabulary of a cultivated person.
 - 1. Let’s watch ourselves at home. Pass the habits on to your younger siblings.
- C. It is proper for young men to address older men as “Sir” but girls should call their older friends Mrs., Mr., or Miss.
- D. Try not to interrupt people and do not try to dominate the conversation.
 - 1. Avoid the use of slang
 - 2. Don’t be loud or boastful.
 - 3. Don’t be a bore. (One who always talks about himself)
 - 4. Be interested in others
 - 5. Think before you speak. Never offend by rudeness or indifference.
 - 6. Be careful not to ridicule (mock, make fun of) others – their speech, dress, looks.
 - 7. Avoid being too personal, even with good friends.
- E. Work on self-improvement until one by one the old selfish, discourteous habits fall away. Follow the rule: Christ first, others second, and yourself last.

X. Table Manners

- A. A person’s good breeding – or lack of it – shows up clearly in his table manners.
 - 1. Place the napkin folded partially on your lap. It is to wipe hands, blot lips, when needed. It is not a bib.
 - 2. Hold your fork or spoon between thumb and finger like a pencil.
 - 3. Put food in your mouth in small quantities.
 - 4. Use a knife for cutting only.
 - 5. Stir liquids gently. Take the spoon out of the glass or cup.
 - 6. Do not talk with your mouth full.
 - 7. Sit straight with your head held slightly toward the plate, but not down level to it.
 - 8. Keep your elbows off the table.
 - 9. Keep your fingers out of the food. Use your fingers as little as possible. Follow the hostess’ example when eating fried chicken.
 - 10. Don’t gulp down liquids.
 - 11. Don’t begin to eat until the host or hostess has at least placed his fork on his plate.
 - 12. Don’t make a scene if something is too hot, you cannot chew it, etc. Be graceful.
 - 13. The host or hostess will determine seating arrangements. The ultimate aim is

to create a happy, relaxed atmosphere.

14. In formal dining, begin with the piece of silver farthest from you and work in. Watch what others do .If you make a mistake, don't be embarrassed. Likely you won't be noticed.
15. In a restaurant, the waiter leads the lady. The young man takes care of checking wraps, etc. A gentleman will assist the lady to be seated.
16. The guest should not order the most expensive on the menu—nor the lowest priced. Fit your desires into the finances of your escort or host. The young man gives the order to the waiter.
17. A refined lady will never put on makeup or combs her hair at the table. She excuses herself and takes care of the necessary in the powder room.
18. When a guest comes to the table, the man stands until he or she is seated or leaves.
19. A man should examine the check to see if it is correct, but never make a federal case out of it. If you can afford to eat out, you can afford to tip. 15% is most expected.
20. When Dad takes the family out, Mother is the guest of honor. Everyone makes his selection and Dad gives the order. Make a lovely occasion out of it.

XI. Pen Manners

- A. Letters of sympathy should be handwritten. If your handwriting is not legible, practice!
- B. "Thank you" letters are required. There is no substitute for sincere gratitude.
- C. For boy-to-boy or girl-to-girl writing, it does not matter who writes first. From a boy to a girl, the boy always writes first. (This also applies to telephone calls) She should not reply immediately. Too much eagerness is not in good taste.
- D. A note of condolence is often a way to witness.
- E. A married woman signs her own name followed by her husband's. Mary K. Smith (Mrs. John Smith)
- F. If you write public officials, such as senators and representatives, use "The Honorable" before the name. Get the definite titles for such formal correspondence.

XII. Who Pays – This is the man's department.

- A. Do not borrow. It is a disgraceful, almost fatal habit.
- B. Debt is bondage. Don't let your pride get you into trouble. If you can't afford an outing, don't go.
- C. Have consideration for your family's finances. Have a personal budget. Don't expect your family to bail you out.

XIII. Appearance Manners

- A. Your looks reveal your culture – your manners. Your hair, skin and clothes affect your poise. Often before you open your mouth, people make a judgment of you.
- B. Young men should be neat, clean and appropriately dressed. Girls should be neat, clean and feminine. This is God's plan and only confusion results when this is disregarded. If you dress like a boy, you will probably be treated like a brother.

- C. Avoid extremes and “in styles” that are not suited to your body. You will not be brash, or sexy if you dress like a lady.
- D. Your hair, as a lady, is your “crowning glory”. It adds more to your appearance than any other single item. **DO NOT COMB YOUR HAIR IN PUBLIC.**
I Corinthians 11:15
- E. Makeup should be pleasing to God and yet not conspicuous. Use moderation!
- F. Men do not want their women to be like them! The more feminine you are the better. Knees are ugly! Tight or bare clothes only draw attention to our imperfections. Unisex, Women’s Lib and Homosexuality are the extreme opposites to God’s standards. They are SIN.

LESSON 12

The Thresholds of Life

- I. Starting School
 - A. Leave mother and father
 - 1. Responsible for own actions
 - 2. Other authority
 - B. Systematic learning
 - C. Schedule
 - D. Social adjustment
- II. Becoming a teenager I Timothy 4:12
 - A. Physical changes
 - B. Emotional changes
 - C. Mental attitudes change
 - 1. Begin to be a self-motivated person (must form personal convictions)
- III. Adulthood – I Corinthians 13:11 – “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought (reasoned) as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”
 - A. Totally responsible for own actions
 - 1. Large percentage of time without other adult guidance – Proverbs 11:14 – “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”
Psalm 1:1,2 – “Blessed is the man that walketh (continue in a voluntary manner) not in the counsel of the ungodly.” Proverbs 4:19 – “The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.”
 - B. Honor thy father and thy mother
 - 1. A Scriptural principle
 - 2. A safeguard
 - a. Days will be long upon the earth – Ephesians 6:2,3
 - b. Obedience always brings God’s blessing
- IV. Marriage – I Timothy 5:14 – “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”
 - A. Adjusting to the ways of another
 - B. Beginning a home
 - 1. Financial obligations
 - 2. Organization
 - 3. Total upkeep – You had better start learning how before you leave home.
- V. Parenthood – Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go: ...”
 - A. Little lives totally dependent upon us

- B. Guidance by example
 - C. Guidance by teaching – Deuteronomy 6:6-9 – The Scriptural principles to live by must be in our heart first, then we are to teach them diligently.
 - D. Guidance by outside influences. Our choice of friends is of utmost importance.
- VI. Middle years – Titus 2:3-5 – “The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness (as becomes those engaged in sacred service)...that they may teach the younger women ...”
- A. Children are independent
 - B. Re-adjust to just two
 - C. Reach a peak of usefulness
 - 1. Experience (the best teacher)
- VII. Golden years – II Timothy 1:5 – “unfeigned faith...”(the “leaning of your entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness.)
- Psalm 71:9, 18 – “Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.” “Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.” Psalm 37:25 – “I have been young, and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”
- A. Body functions slow down
 - B. Sickness and ill health many times a way of life.
 - C. Loss of loved one and friends
 - D. The blessed hope – to go to be with our Lord

LESSON 13

Marriage

- I. Genesis 2:18,24 – “And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.” – “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”(joined inseparably) (Matthew 19:5,6)
 - A. Not good that man should be alone – (He is incomplete without her)
 - 1. An help meet (to stand with, go along side of, make up for lack of)
- II. Ephesians 2:22-24 – Wives are to submit themselves to their own husbands in everything.
 - A. Submission is an attitude of heart. Not an “outward act” with a rebellious heart. If the heart attitude is right, submission is natural and easy.
 - B. Part of your over-all submission to God – “...as unto the Lord.”
 - C. A wife is a “completer”, not a “competer”.
- III. I Peter 3:1 – “Obedience to this subjection promotes obedience on the husband’s part toward God.
 - A. If a woman is saved after she marries, she may also win her husband to the Lord this way.
 - B. Chaste (pure and modest way you conduct yourself together with your reverence (respect, honor him, appreciate and prize him, adore him, admire him, deeply love and enjoy him)
Vs. 6 – Sarah obeyed Abraham (followed his guidance and acknowledged his leadership) calling him lord (master, leader, authority)
 - C. Adorning – not outward - Vs. 3 – but of a meek and quiet spirit – Vs. 4 – which in the sight of God of great price.
 - D. The man you marry must be someone you can follow in every respect.
 - 1. A spiritual leader
 - 2. Must be honorable – therefore you are able to respect him
- IV. Does submission mean a wife never thinks for herself? No
 - A. A wife should tell her husband lovingly how she feels, what she thinks about an issue and then commit the situation and outcome to God.
 - B. Submission does not mean that you always agree – but you always yield.
 - C. When in a situation where a decision must be made – she never goes contrary to what she knows her husband wants.
 - 1. Especially detrimental where the children are concerned
- V. His home is his castle – A place a wife has “furnished” with a good atmosphere; “warmed” by lovingly and adequately meeting needs, and “lighted” by Godly homemaking. A castle can be a mansion, humble cottage or one room. The wife is the one who determines whether or not it is a castle. Be willing to make whatever changes are necessary to reach this goal.

- VI. Our attitude toward our father now and our husband later reflects our attitude toward God.
- A. Selflessness frees you to think creatively about the other person – to serve, be thoughtful
 - B. Edgar Guest wrote: “It takes a heap of living to make a house a home.”
 - C. J. W. Goethe wrote: ”He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home.”
 - D. Deceit should never be a part of the husband-wife relationship. Proverbs 20:17
 - E. Proverbs 21:9,19 “It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.” “It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.”
 - F. Job 6:24-25 – “Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred. How forcible are right words! But what doth your arguing reprove?”
 - G. A wife can turn her husband’s heart away from God. – I Kings 11:4
 - H. Romans 14:7 – “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”
- VII. Being a wife is your job alone. No one else can nor should do it. Be what he needs you to be.

LESSON 14

Children

- I. Children are a gift from God – a sacred responsibility
 - A. A “bishop” – must be “One that ruleth well his own household, having his children in subjection (commanding their respect) with all gravity.” – I Timothy 3:4
 - 1. Every Christian’s and household is part of his testimony and effectiveness for God. With the proper attitude, the housewife becomes a homemaker.
 - 2. The father should be the chief disciplinarian. However, each day a mother implants ideals into the impressionable minds of her children.
 - 3. The family has a “corporate” testimony. You are serving the Lord together. Proverbs 22:1 – “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...”
Proverbs 20:11 – “Even a child is known by his doings...”
 - a. Do your children see you involved with the needs of others or are you only interested in “me and our needs”?
 - b. Do you know what problems your children are facing? Do you listen to them.
 - c. Are Scriptural principles a way of life? - II. Timothy 3:16 – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable....for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”
- II. Training is more than teaching – (to mold character, instruct by exercise, drill, to make obedient to orders, to point in an exact direction, to prepare for a contest)
 - A. Every time I ask my child to do something, whatever it is, I must see that he obeys. (Consistent training) – Proverbs 13:24 – “He that spares his rod hates his son, but he that loves him is diligent to discipline him.”
 - B. Because of love – Love will pay the price. Selfish sentiment to spare myself of seeing him endure correction, will send him out into a world unprepared for the natural suffering that life will extract from him.
 - C. Prevents him from going astray. – Psalm 119:67 – “Before I was afflicted I went astray but now I keep your word.”
 - D. Early correction and training prevents the need for drastic correction later. Lamentations 3:27 – “It is good for a man that he bear his yoke in his youth.”
- III. Because of love –Hebrews 12:6 – “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...”
Hebrews 12:10 – “...but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.”
 - A. Anything that is profitable requires discipline.
 - B. Correction bathed in love and prayer will never injure. Only the self-will will be broken, not the spirit.
 - C. It is a good practice after correction to love and comfort the child and explain why the correction was necessary.
- IV. Training helps a child to know how to be submissive to the will and purpose of God.
 - A. An action for the child’s good – not an angry action or rejection
 - B. Deuteronomy 5:29 – “Oh that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear

me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever.”

- C. Inconsistent correction is punishing, not training. A child should always know what to expect.
- D. Big things have small beginnings. When we train a child to obey, we can go on to teach him in many areas. We can enjoy a home filled with ease and fun. There is a wonderful freedom in relationships and parent and child can grow together spiritually.
- E. Obedience – out of love – John 14:21 – “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...”
- F. Discipline – not correction only. It includes teaching of worthwhile accomplishments. It should be bathed in prayer. – We need God’s wisdom. – Each child is different.

LESSON 15

Order in Our Lives

- I. Order is extremely important
 - A. I Corinthians 14:33 and 40 – “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...” Confusion – tumult and unquietness
 - B. Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”
 - C. Psalm 115:13-14 – He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children.”
 - D. Proverbs 31:26 – “She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.” (Faith, good habits, words of wisdom, etc., are passed from one generation to another.
 - E. People do not have to “accept me the way I am.” Why not ask God to show us the areas where we can better glorify Him.
 - F. Circumstances of life are either a stumbling block or a stepping stone. Our background may not have been good, but we have a new heritage. We now have a Heavenly Father.
- II. Practical Suggestions
 - A. Plan ahead.
 - 1. Do everything possible ahead of time.
 - 2. Make a schedule – (Not just Monday through Saturday, but Sunday as well)
 - 3. Determine when “late” is. DON’T BE LATE!
 - 4. Hold up the pastor’s hands on Sunday and at all meetings. Teachers should be in their places 15 minutes before children arrive.
 - 5. Sunday morning – prepare the family for worship – not a screaming match.
 - 6. If you are late for work, you are cheating your employer.
 - B. Make a list
 - 1. Include a “me” time.
 - 2. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
 - 3. Shop once a week for groceries. A menu may be planned ahead.
 - C. Special Meetings
 - 1. Plan entire week
 - 2. Have one or two quick meals for emergency
 - 3. Have children ready when Dad gets home
 - D. Neatness is a must
 - 1. Hang up clothes
 - 2. Dirty clothes go in the hamper
 - 3. Towels should be folded

4. Dishes carried to kitchen
 5. Trash in proper receptacle
 6. Chairs under table
 7. Clothes right side out and hung up
 8. Purchase clothing in one-week supply.
- E. Consistence is a must – Our children are our future homemakers. Boys will be future husbands. They will be what they are now becoming.
- F. Train by example. Recruit Dad's help.
- G. Our orderly home will be a place for everyone to enjoy and we will not be embarrassed when guests arrive unexpectedly. Most of all, it will be a place that brings honor to our Lord. Remember, it is His name we are upholding.
- H. "All things" are important to our success as Christians.
Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:28, Philippians 2:14. Have an "I'll be glad to" attitude.