

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church

107 East Austin

Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

A1039 – September 26, 2010 – Men-Husbands-Fathers

Today we want to install lesson two of a short series on biblical manhood and womanhood. This is in no way exhaustive. I have to cover a lot of material very rapidly so if you have specific questions you'll need to put those in the little church in the back of the church. I will say things you won't like but in my defense, I'm not saying it, God is saying it, so you can get mad at Him if you want. I'm just going to give you the data, then it's in your hands and you can take it up with Him.

Today, we want to focus on one side of the human race, the male side, and hopefully by doing it this way we can see next week when we deal with the other side, the female side, how the two sides of the human race complement one another.

The term I just used, "complement" is a term I want to introduce and define along with another term egalitarian. These are the two basic positions on the gender issue. When I use the term "complement" or "complementarianism" I'm referring to the belief that *men and women are created equal with role distinctions*. So the idea here is that both male and female are created in the image of God but that the way God designed our physical, mental and emotional makeup is distinct and that structures male and female for different roles. The end product being that men are designed to complement women and women are designed to complement men. That is, they fit together, they complete one another. Not just any two people fit together, a man and a woman fit together, not a man and a man.

The opposing term is "egalitarian" or "egalitarianism." And when I use this term I'm referring to the belief that *men and women are created equal without role distinctions*. So the idea egalitarians have is that we want to

have equality in every way possible, we want to erase all distinctions. And so they have to hold that any distinctions between male and female are merely surface and we are all basically the same physically, mentally and emotionally.

The traditional view of the church has been complementarity. There's a long history to the idea that God created men and women in the image of God but He distinctly structured each side of the human race to fulfill certain roles that would complement the other. And logically where that leads is to heterosexual marriage. Marriage is only between a male and a female. That should be easy enough to see. So in the complementarian view you can't have marriage between a man and a man or a woman and a woman because a man and a man don't complement one another and a woman and a woman don't complement one another. On the other hand, the new progressive view of the church is egalitarianism and here you have male and female with no real distinctions and therefore the logical conclusion is you can have homosexual marriage, the logic flows. So you can see these views have logical implications inherent in the starting point.

Now this egalitarian idea has only been in the church since the early 1970's. It came in by two women Scanzoni and Hardesty in their 1974 book, *All We're Meant to Be: A Biblical Approach to Women's Liberation*. Notice that title because that title is tipping you off to something. Where was their starting point? Why were they writing the book? Because of the women's lib movement of the 1960's. So here we have women in the church looking out at the world and they're sucking up the ideas of the world and bringing them into the church, trying to re-interpret the Bible to support the women's lib movement. That's not how you do Bible study. But this was the period of quote "liberation" in a number of areas. That's a misleading term because it gives you the idea of "freedom" and if you're not for our liberation you're not for freedom. Well, wait a minute, just what is freedom? Let's define that word very carefully because if we mis-define it then we generate all kinds of movements to create a false sense of freedom. The Bible says if you know the truth the truth will set you free. And where do you find the truth? In God's word or man's opinion? In God's word. So now we're back to the Bible. And the Bible teaches that male and female are created equal with role distinctions. So here we have Scanzoni and Hardesty importing false ideas of liberation into the church. It was all coming out of the culture wars of the

1960's; women's lib, sexual lib, gay lib; these movements which radically re-structured America and radically restructured the Church in America.

These liberation movements are related, structurally in the thinking pattern, they are all built on the presupposition that all men and women are equal in every way; there can be no distinctions because if we make distinctions then that's subordination and that supposedly implies inferiority. Really? So children are not subordinate to parents? Well, if that's the case stop telling them what to do, just get out of the way and let them run wild. See, the logic of it is absurd.

But out of this an army of so-called experts started encouraging women to be more like men. So if you're talking about sex that meant women were to be more aggressive and promiscuous and we'll put fuel on the fire by giving you the birth control pill and legalizing abortion. Now you can be freed from the so-called "prison bars" of the Judeo-Christian worldview. Well, we have the results today. "God will not be mocked, whatsoever a man sows this he will also reap." Now we have a radically sexualized culture. We have "gay rights," "same-sex marriage," bi-sexuality, "transgenderism," and a host of other strange sexual activities that have totally changed the culture.

Out of this gender debate came the women's liberation movement and the subsequent re-defining of traditional marriage as "legalized rape" and "slavery." Think of the vitriole behind those words, marriage as legalized rape. As radical feminist writer Andrea Dworkin wrote, "marriage is an institution that is extremely oppressive and dangerous for women." Hatred for men has taken on new levels as TV sitcoms are written almost completely around father bashing; the idiot, bumbling male who can never get anything right. Consequently who do you think watches TV sitcoms? Analysts report that 4 out of every 5 viewers of TV sitcoms are female. Apparently the men don't like being bashed.

Christian Hoff Sommers in her book *The War Against Boys* says, "It's a bad time to be a boy in America," "There are now conferences, workshops, and institutes dedicated to transforming boys." Barney Brawer, director of the Boys' Project at Tufts University, told *Education Week*: "We've deconstructed the old version of manhood, but we've not [yet] constructed a new version." What are they trying to do to boys? The next generation of men? They're

trying to feminize them, make them more like girls. However, “Despite the deplorable attempts by social revolutionaries to feminize and reprogram boys to be more like girls, in reality...there is nothing wrong and a very great deal right with boys—testosterone, competitiveness, aggressiveness, fidgeting, and all—just as there is a great deal right with girls. Even maverick feminist Camille Paglia courageously reminds her men-hating colleagues that masculinity is “the most creative cultural force in history.” Think about that. That’s coming from the mouth of a radical feminist. And she has to admit that masculinity is the most creative cultural force in history. Men tamed the wilderness, men built civilization, men revolutionized life through inventions and sacrificed their own lives to protect women and children. But today they’re under virulent attack by those who were given all of this by them.

So with that said, and we could say much, much more, but understand that in our generation men are under assault, the education system is designed to give girls an advantage over boys, this has been well-documented. Over the last 30 years major changes have occurred in an attempt to re-invent manhood. And therefore to stand against this cultural madness we have to keep our noses in this book, the word of God, this is the truth and Jesus said the truth will liberate you, not man’s opinion, not man’s idea of manhood, God’s idea of manhood. So we turn to the Bible to get the standard of manhood, which is embodied in none less than the Lord Jesus Christ, and from Him we build from the Scriptures what true masculinity looks like.

I. Define a Divine Institution or Sphere Sovereignty (Responsibility)

First, let’s be reminded of what is a divine institution. We’re looking at three structures; responsible labor, marriage and family and we’re going to look at the masculine side today through these three institutions. What we mean by a divine institution is it’s “*an absolute structure built into the created order that serves an essentially spiritual function.*” In other words, if you change the original form of these things as designed and defined by God then there’s a heavy price to pay. You cannot fidget with these, they are not conventions. That’s the idea from the world - that these are just conventions and we can fidget here and fidget there and adjust these things and they’re no big deal. The Bible says they are a big deal; they’re part of the structure of man and nature and if you fool around you’ll rip and tear apart the fabric of civilization. Society will be destroyed.

II. DI#1: Responsible Labor or Dominion

Turn to Gen 2:15. We want to put man, the masculine side of the human race through the filter of the divine institutions starting with the first one, responsible labor or dominion. In Gen 1, God has created the universe, that's the first picture we have of God. God is a laborer. He has an idea in His mind, He creates the idea in His mind, He names the creation and He evaluates His creation. God is the first laborer. Then we come to Gen 2:15 and we see that God created man to labor. Each man has a labor or calling in life, a vocation that God gives him, not verbally as he does here with Adam, but a definite bent that he's to follow and discover his calling in life after the pattern of Adam. Maybe you haven't found your calling yet but it's very important to find. You may have to work and go to school at the same time to get the training you need to get into your field but ladies, they need your support to do that, so they can get where they need to be in life. "Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it." What's the purpose clause there? Why is the man put in the garden? To cultivate it and keep it. Man's original labor was to cultivate and keep a garden in Eden. He was in agriculture. This was Adam's job and labor is the basic function of man. Man's function is to subdue the earth, work the ground, and bring it to productivity. Yet verses like this really upset the environmentalists today because they interpret this to mean man rips and tears it to shreds. In context it's not ripping and tearing it to shreds, it's being a good steward of the resources God gave man, it's developing it, making it thrive.

Now why is the basic function of man related to the earth? Why is it always stated agriculturally throughout the Bible? Answer, Gen 2:7. "Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Notice where was man's body made from? From the dust of the ground, he's made from the earth, and therefore his primary function is to do what? Work the earth. Man is closely related to the earth and consequently you will almost always find men more interested in land and earth than women; women are not near as interested in those things. Man is interested because he sees something he can create with, something he can work, and something he can make productive. Pay attention to that point because it will relate next week when we deal with

women; she's not created the same way man was created and the difference is significant. So the first point is that man is to work the earth, that doesn't mean we all have to be farmers, but we are all working with the materials God gave us, we're developing, we're inventing, we're building, that you can't deny.

The second point is the work week as an absolute structure. Turn to Exod 20:8, this is in the Ten Commandments, there's a ratio of 6 days of work to 1 day of rest built into the created order. We're not saying we're under this commandment; keeping the Sabbath and all of that, don't confuse what I'm saying here. I'm simply trying to illustrate that this 6:1 ratio is built into the created order; it's built into man and nature. And how that was manifested in OT Israel was by the keeping of the Sabbath. Sunday is not the Sabbath. Never has been, never will be. Notice verse 8, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹"Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you." Notice that, why does he stick the cattle in there? Because the cattle need a break too, they're also creations of God and the creation is designed to operate on a 6:1 ratio. Why? Verse 11, "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy." See, people don't catch it, they want to make the days of Genesis equal millions and billions of years. There's a little problem with that. Right here in Exodus these are God's own words and He's commenting on the days of Genesis and he says, "in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is in them." How do you think an ancient Israelite like Moses understood that? So God, do you mean we're supposed to take a rest every million years? The whole point is that in creation week God established the work week, not the work millennia. It's not only what God created that's important, but the time in which He did it established a further creation, the work week. And what this means is that the 6:1 ratio for labor is the optimal, even in a fallen world. Optimal fruitfulness for the Lord is working 6 days and taking 1 day of rest. It's not good to work 2 days and take 5 off. It's not good to work 20 days and take 1 day off. The optimal of human efficiency to produce for the glory of God is 6:1. During the church age it doesn't matter whether you take off Sunday or Thursday. Paul says one considers one day above another, another man

considers them all alike, it doesn't matter. But what does matter is the ratio; 6:1 is the optimal design of man and nature. So women, don't get upset with your men if they're working six days a week. They're working on the optimal design. There may be times and seasons when they have to work more or less and that's just a part of it, trust me, it's frustrating for all of us.

The third point we'll make is from 1 Tim 5:8. And the point here is very simple. Men are responsible to provide for the family, not women. In fact, the woman isn't even created yet when God gave the man his labor. And when He did make woman He didn't give her a separate calling. The man alone is given a calling and the woman is created to help the man in his calling. There are not two career paths here, there's one career path, the man's career path and the woman is to help in that. She's not to go out and help some other man build his kingdom, she's supposed to help her man build his kingdom for the glory of God, so that her man is known in the gates, not some other man. Look at 1 Tim 5:8, "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." It's a very serious function here men. Are you providing for your family? Are you supporting your family? Or are you being lazy? See what happens is the husband sends his wife into the work place to make ends meet. Reason, because he's frustrated trying to make a living. Turn to Gen 3:17. There are sin patterns at work since the Fall and curse. The man's curse is specifically in one area of his life, for the women the curse is in a different area of life and if you don't recognize these differences you'll forever think women are from Venus and men are from Mars. They're not, but the difference is due to how they're made and their roles and subsequently the area they're cursed. Look at verse 17, "Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it; Cursed is the ground because of you;" What is cursed? The ground. Where did Adam come from? The ground. What was his labor? The ground. So what does God curse? The area of man's labor, man's work, man's vocation. He says, "In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸"Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return." Now let me give both men and women a little secret. The most frustrating part of a man's life is his job, making a living, going out into the world and subduing it, supporting his

family. That's his number one frustration. So what's the number one thing a man wants out of? His job. He wants you women to get out there and get a job so he can slack off. But if you follow that gimmick it's only going to cause problems. We can't go into all of them but men who depend on their wives will never subdue as God wants them to. They will never excel because they don't have to stretch, they've got you picking up the slack and you're bringing in 30K and he's bringing in 26K, put it together and you think everything's fine financially. But that's contrary to God's design. God designed the man to be the provider for the home and if he doesn't provide for his own then he's worse than an unbeliever, that's a quote from the apostle Paul and you can take it to the bank. Now there are some things a woman can do to generate income and we'll talk about those next week but they basically amount to home business, taking your husband's assets and making them work for you, not consuming every dime he brings in the door, not walking out the door to go work out in the world building some other man's kingdom and leaving the family to be raised by someone else. Now you'll say that just won't work; we can't make ends meet and all the rest of it. Well, how are we to walk? By faith, not by sight, every one of the truths of Scripture will challenge you to trust God; nobody said you will be able to see how it all works out. God just said, trust Me, I will work it out, this is My plan so if you go against these you're saying I have my plan and my plan will be more successful and you'll never know what doing it God's way would have brought about, you'll never know.

So that's divine institution #1 for men, responsible labor. Man is given a vocation or calling in life, he must find what it is God wants him to do; second, he should try to labor on the optimal 6:1 ratio; third, a man who doesn't provide for his own family is worse than an unbeliever; and fourth, labor will be the greatest arena of frustration in life. But if he does it, it will lead to greater spiritual advance because spiritual growth occurs under pressure and if you go into the workplace and relieve the pressure for him then that slows the growth.

For the second divine institution we have marriage. Marriage is a divine institution where one man and one woman come together in a contract which should be virtually indissoluble. But now we've got no-fault divorce and you can do anything you want which has essentially re-defined marriage as a non-contractual arrangement. By the way, you might be interested to know

that Ronald Reagan was the one who first endorsed no-fault divorce when he was governor in CA in 1969. His son, Michael wrote about it years later and said it was his father's number one regret in life. He wished he'd never opened that can of worms. Since no-fault divorce, the percentage of divorce has skyrocketed 20%. And in 8 out of 10 marriages, divorce is initiated by the woman and in more than 90% of these she has some other man. In 80% of contested cases, the woman gets custody and in 90% of uncontested cases the woman gets custody of any children. And yet studies have shown how that the absence of the father is the number one cause of increased pregnancy rates, increased social rebellion, increased violence in teens. And most men are not the men portrayed by the media as the guys who care about nothing but themselves and beat women. By far most of them love their children and desperately want to keep the family together. So this is a critical area.

For the man and marriage turn to 1 Cor 11. This is a real nail-biter: long-hair, short-hair, head coverings - but don't worry. I am for head coverings but not in the corporate church and the reason why is verse 18. This is a little verse people never read so when they come to this text they get all wrapped around the axel about headcoverings but verse 18 says, "in the first place, when you come together as a church..." and he goes into the Lord's Supper. But if this is Paul's first instruction when they gather as a church then what he just finished saying about headcoverings doesn't refer to when the church gathers. It has to do with the home. So I don't have a problem that most people create with this passage of trying to make this apply to when the church gathers and then I get bothered by that so I go into the text and re-interpret it to fit cultural norms. It never applied to the church gathered, he's not dealing with the church gathered until the first point he wants to make which he starts in v 18. So the teaching on headcoverings for women when they pray is in the home, they're to have their head covered because it's a symbol of authority and this gets into questions related to glory and so forth.

Now, notice, the first point we want to make about man is in verse 7, "For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man." Who is the glory of God? The man is. Who is the glory of man? The woman is. So that's a distinction. The man is the image and glory of God, the woman is not, she's the image of God but she's not the glory of God, she's the glory of man. And so we have a structural distinction between male and female right here. Both made in the image of

God but the man only is the glory of God. And you say, well, why is that? Verse 8 explains, “For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;” if you look in the margin that’s a quote from where? What chapter of Genesis do we learn that woman was created out of man and not the other way around? Genesis chapter 2. But we reject that as literal today. I mean, poor Paul, didn’t have a Ph.D. in gynecology so he wasn’t aware that men are born from women and women are not born out of the side of men. Yet that’s what Paul believed. There are actually four different ways people have been born into the world, Scripturally speaking. Paul’s speaking of the first way right here, a woman was born out of the side of man. That’s when God took the rib, the *tsele*, the side of Adam in the first surgery and he built the first woman. And because of this unique order of creation Paul says man is the glory of God and the woman is the glory of man. That’s the reason underlying why the man’s head is to be uncovered and the woman’s head is to be covered.

Now what this does is set up a second truth that he just announced earlier in verse 3, so glance up to 1 Cor 11:3 and see if you don’t learn a truth that really bugs the egalitarians. “But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.” Now that sounds like a hierarchy here, an order; at the top we have God, God is the head of Christ, then Christ is the head of man, then man is the head of woman. And you say, well what does it really mean “head?” Answer, it’s the Greek word *kephale* and it means superior in rank. It doesn’t mean superior in essence, it means superior in rank. If it referred to essence then Jesus Christ is not God and there goes the Trinity, only the core of the Christian faith. It doesn’t refer to essence, it refers to rank. It was used this way in the Roman military - someone who was the head had superior rank over other soldiers. That didn’t mean that the soldiers were less human than their captain. They were all equally human, but they were not all the head, only the captain was the head, he was a higher rank. Now these headship relationships are all around us. We’ve got boss and employee, we’ve got commander and commanded, we’ve got elder and layman, we’ve got President and citizen and its all differences of rank. It doesn’t refer to essence. And we’ve got it in marriage and in marriage it’s the man who has rank over the wife. And what that means, you don’t really want this rank do you women? Because if you’re the head then you answer for the other partner, you’re responsible for them. And so when it says the man is the head of the woman it means the man is responsible for you and will give an answer

for you. Women will not have to answer for their husbands at the judgment seat of Christ. But husbands will have to answer for their wives. They're the head and they're responsible for you. And wearing a headcovering is a symbol of that; you're recognizing he's your head. And verse 10 tells us why. "Therefore the woman ought to have authority on her head, that's physical head, why? "because of the angels." Now does that have anything to do with culture? Angelic beings transcend human culture. Then we have another reason for headcoverings that we've already covered in verse 9 that links to verse 10, "man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake." And that re-enforces our point earlier that men are the production agents in this world. It is their responsibility to produce and support the family through responsible labor. Verse 10 says, Men weren't created for their wives, the wives were created for you and that implies she's the helper, you're the laborer. The woman is the helper in this complementary relationship. He needs you, he has to have you to fulfill his role of godly dominion in this world and he can't do it without you so you're every bit as important as him. God didn't say everything He made was very good until the end of the sixth day of creation when woman was created for man's sake and He couldn't have said it was very good until He created her. So women aren't second rate, they're first rate people that God has made very important. So man is the glory of God, man is the head of the wife by order of creation and now we turn to a third truth.

Turn to 1 Pet 3:7. This passage is mainly about the women and we'll cover it next week but there's one note about the men in verse 7, "You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered." The man is the stronger vessel and that has doctrinal truth attached to it. There's a certain way to treat your wife that has serious implications. Your job is not to stand there and tell her, now you do this and you do that, this isn't the army and you're not sending orders down, that's not being a good husband. He says live with your wives in an understanding way. That means pay attention to what she says, listen to her, you can't understand her if you don't learn to listen to her. So pay attention, when she says something you ought to be all ears, seeking to understand. Now it doesn't mean that once you understand her you have to do whatever she says, it just means you do have to listen to her and try to understand. There are needs she has as the weaker vessel that you

need to provide. Then he gives another command, “and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life.” She’s been saved by grace through faith just like you, now honor her like you would another believer. She’s not less than you, she’s not to be degraded by you, she’s to be honored and respected and shown dignity, she’s your possession in marriage but she’s Christ’s possession in salvation. So treat her with honor. And if you’ve ever been through a period of life when you weren’t having your prayers answered it might just be because of this, please notice the end of the verse, “so that your prayers will not be hindered.” Point being, if you don’t live with her in an understanding way and you don’t honor her then God says, that’s it, I’m not listening to you, you don’t want to listen to her, fine, just know I don’t want to listen to you. She has needs and you won’t try to understand and I told you to, so if you have needs and you want me to provide, sorry, your on your own, over and out.

For the fourth truth for husbands in the divine institution of marriage turn to Eph 5:25. Three times in this passage God says, love your wife, love your wife, love your wife. Now if you’re looking at someone else, male or female, you’re not loving your wife, that should be obvious. So look at verse 25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,” now he’s going to go on to more explanation. But look at that, love your wife, just as Christ also loved the church. The way you’re supposed to love your wife is as Christ loved the church. How did He love her? Selflessly. He gave Himself to her. That’s the definition of love, giving yourself to another person. Now, but wait a minute, what if she’s being a bad girl. It doesn’t matter. We weren’t loving Christ before He gave Himself to us. He initiated love not based on who we were but based on who He is. This is a key to love. You love not because of who the other person is, you love because of who you are. They may be very unlovely, we were very unlovely and Christ loved us. It doesn’t matter if she’s unlovely at the moment, throwing pots and pans at you, it doesn’t matter, you love her anyway, we’re not condoning the pots and pans but if you don’t love her it’s a revelation of you’re character. If you do love it’s a revelation of you’re character. But it doesn’t tell you who she is. You love because of who you are regardless of who she is. You said you would in the vows, now do it and just see what happens, see what God does. I think you’ll be surprised with the fantastic things that come out of it. If you love her she’ll blossom as a woman. And if you don’t she’ll wilt.

Now v 28 is another illustration of how this works, “So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies.” So you ask the question, how do I love my own body? Well, you don’t even think about it, you wash it, you clothe it, you brush your teeth, some of us more than others, what’s the point. It’s all habit, you don’t even think about how you take care of your body, it comes naturally. And that’s what this is saying, it ought to be just habitual, to care for her and love her ought to just happen. That’s love, you just do it because in reality that’s you, her body is your body, the two are one flesh. So not loving her is like not taking care of yourself, not doing what is natural to do. Verse 29, “for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.” See the reason there at the end. Why Christ does this for us is because we are members of His body. And you don’t mistreat your own body. You don’t mutilate yourself. And then notice verse 31, he bases all this exhortation to you husbands on what reference? Gen 2 in the margin. Paul didn’t know Genesis was just a myth. Here we are again, face to face with the fact that all this comes directly out of Genesis. So if we don’t read Genesis normally and we rip it to shreds then we don’t get any of this instruction, it all washes out. He quotes Gen 2:24 as the base. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” She’s your flesh, love your own flesh. And there’s another principle I want to hit in passing from this verse, a man shall leave his father and mother, that means men, you can’t depend on your parents, her parents to make a living. That’s another attempt to avoid the frustrations of the curse; that’s going to be your undoing if you don’t separate and form a new family unit supported by you, not monthly stipends in your account from grampa. That’s going to mess things up, that’s contrary to the design. That’s not teaching against inheritance, it’s teaching against living month to month by mooching off of other family members because you’re too lazy to work! There’s allowances for special times, but not the norm.

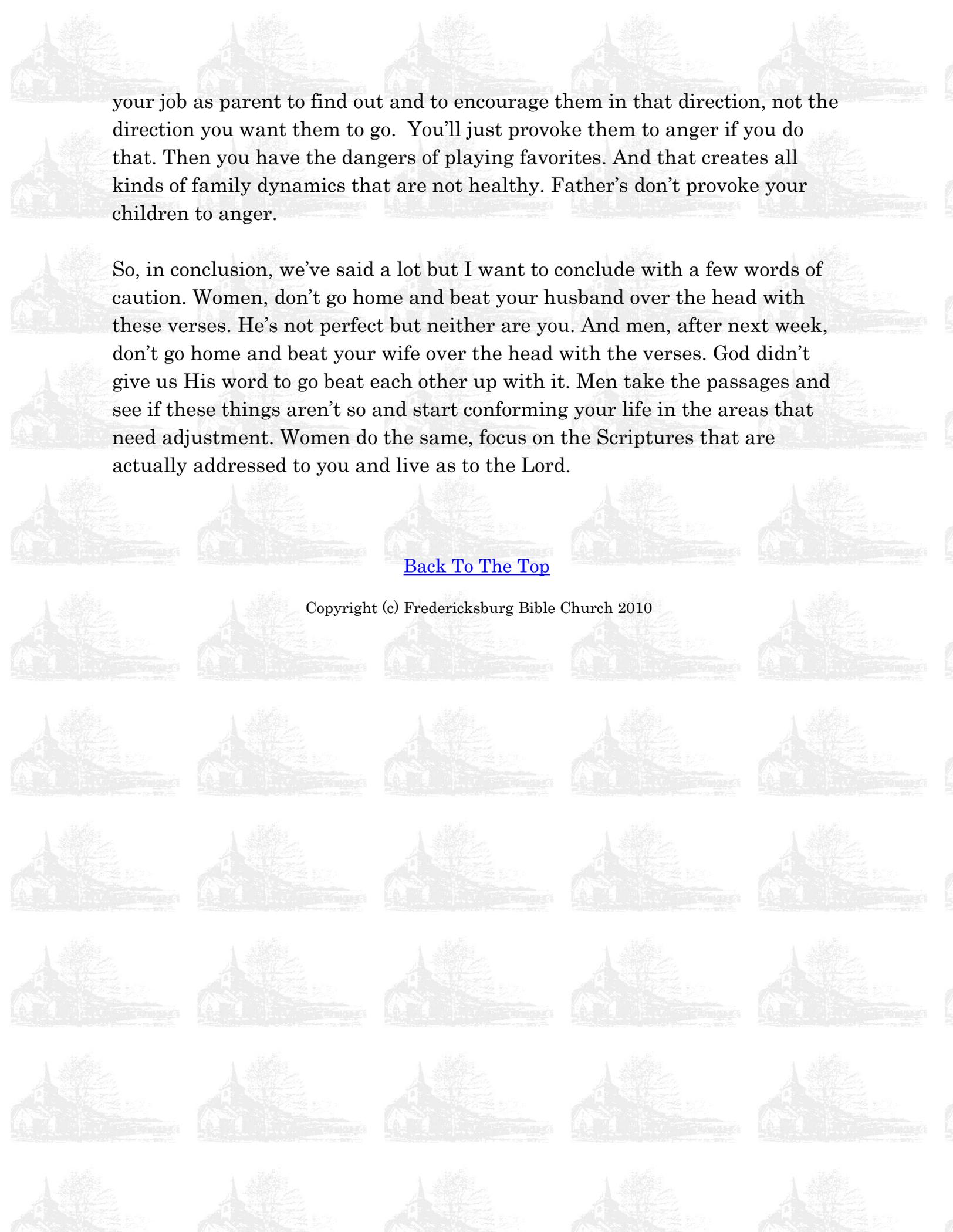
Now we could show other places where man is given this command to *agape* love his wife but Eph 5 is the supreme location and this is the supreme command for all husbands, love your wife as God wants you to love her, as Christ loved the church, as you care for your own body.

-----Summarize four truths of marriage

Now we come finally to divine institution number three and that's family, the home. What's the man's role in the home? For this drop down to Eph 6:4. The first point is that the man is the leader in physical discipline of children. Observe, "Father's, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Alright, two words, "discipline" that refers to the physical discipline, use of the rod, not your hand, not your foot, not your fist, those are fighting instruments. The rod is an authoritative instrument, it's a ruling instrument. When Jesus Christ returns He rules with what? A rod of iron. The rod intrinsically carries the connotation of authority and that's why you use it and not your hand or a paddle or your foot; those carry different connotations. So the men have to set the tone in this area, you can't say, honey, you discipline little Johnny while I sit in the other room. You're going to have to buck up and take the lead. You're the head of the family and you have to do it. She's to follow your lead in this area, to reinforce and follow through. So first, physical "discipline" and second "instruction," that's mental training, that's instruction in the Scriptures, training in the word of God. That's not the Church's job, that's not the Sunday School's job, that's not the job of the private school, that's the father's job. Those other things may be in place but only as re-enforcement. The primary responsibility rests with the father. The father is responsible for this and the father will be judged on this at the judgment seat of Christ. But if you don't know the Scriptures how can you teach them the Scriptures? You can't. So that's why I teach you the framework. The framework is just that, a framework, it's not all the details but in our day and age if you can just get the framework you'll be 95% there and last time I checked that was an A. So shoot for that. We can't get every detail these days; we're too many generations behind in biblical literacy to get that kind of loyalty in this generation. So start with the framework and get that down, pass that on to your children then they can build more in the next generation and go further. But we've got to start somewhere and that's why I have put the framework into use here. Start building godly heritage, right thinking, mental training.

Now, at the first of the verse, notice there's a danger here for fathers. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger," that's a tendency of fallen fathers. We think Paul put that in there because his father provoked him to anger. And there are some things we do as fathers that just eat away at our children, we may not even know we're doing it so we have to evaluate. The problem with a lot of fathering is that we have a mold chosen for our kid and

our kid better fit that mold and then when our kid doesn't fit the mold we get mad at them, we scream at them, we say things like what's wrong with you, when I was your age I didn't do that, or so and so's kid doesn't do that. Why can't you be more like them, what's wrong with you. And that's a problem. Another one of the worst things we can do is compare our girls with our boys and vice versa, boys aren't girls and girls aren't boys. That's the whole point and anytime we're treating them identically in every way we're making a mistake because we're either masculinizing the girls or feminizing the boys and usually it's the latter because we tend to like the calmness of little girls and so we try to tame that aggression in the boys and that's wrong. I don't think boys and girls should compete against each other and there are studies done on this that show it's bad for boys. It's probably bad for girls to. But one of the problems is that girls tend to be a little ahead of the boys early on and they beat the boys down and when the boys grow into men they defer to women because they always have. In past times they didn't have co-ed education, co-ed sports and all the rest of it/ That's a progressive idea and I don't think it's benefited us much because the education system has catered to the girls and just because little Johnny over there can't keep still in his seat we think something's wrong with him so we label him ADHD and put him on Ritalin. Do you realize that 80% of kids labeled ADHD and on Ritalin are boys? 80%. And so they drug them to get them to act like Amy on the next aisle who doesn't have testosterone running through her veins. They're not Amy, they're not girls, they're going to fidget and move and did you know that's how they learn? Boys can pay attention better when they're fidgeting. So when we try to force them to sit still that's actually interrupting their learning process. Now there has to be some degree of control yes, they can't be picking on everyone, disrupting the whole class. But the point is we've catered the education system to the girls, and now we're finding out that we're just trying to take natural mechanics of how boys learn and make them learn like girls. And it doesn't work. They're distinctly different but because we won't recognize this the boys are falling behind. Colleges and universities are over 60% female and the administrators are concerned, to the point they're starting to use affirmative action to admit more boys to college. So don't try to make your children who you want them to be, don't compare them with one another and make them all the same. The Bible says, "Train a child in the way *he* should go and he will not depart from it." Notice, people read by that at a 100 mph and never understand it. Train a child in the way *he* should go, not the way you think he should go. Each child has a certain bent and its

The background of the page is a repeating pattern of a black and white illustration of a church building with a steeple, set against a light background. The church is shown from a side-on perspective, with a large tree in front of it. The pattern is consistent across the entire page.

your job as parent to find out and to encourage them in that direction, not the direction you want them to go. You'll just provoke them to anger if you do that. Then you have the dangers of playing favorites. And that creates all kinds of family dynamics that are not healthy. Father's don't provoke your children to anger.

So, in conclusion, we've said a lot but I want to conclude with a few words of caution. Women, don't go home and beat your husband over the head with these verses. He's not perfect but neither are you. And men, after next week, don't go home and beat your wife over the head with the verses. God didn't give us His word to go beat each other up with it. Men take the passages and see if these things aren't so and start conforming your life in the areas that need adjustment. Women do the same, focus on the Scriptures that are actually addressed to you and live as to the Lord.

[Back To The Top](#)

Copyright (c) Fredericksburg Bible Church 2010