

“PRINCIPLES OF A CHRISTIAN FAMILY”

5/9/10

Proverbs 15:20

1. MARRIAGE IS A *COVENANT*, NOT A *CONDITIONAL* PROMISE.

“A bowl of vegetables with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate.” (Proverbs 15:17 NLT)

A. The *Commitment* to God.

“Fear of the Lord leads to life, bringing security and protection from harm.” (Proverbs 19:23 NLT)

“Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?” (2 Corinthians 6:14-15 NLT)

B. The *Character* of the Partners.

“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.” (Proverbs 11:3 KJ)

C. The *Complications* of the Past.

“The human spirit can endure a sick body, but who can bear a crushed spirit?” (Proverbs 18:14 NLT)

D. The Level of *Communication*.

“Though good advice lies deep within the heart, a person with understanding will draw it out.” (Proverbs 20:5 NLT)

E. The Physical *Compatibility*.

“Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.” (Proverbs 5:18 NLT)

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” (Proverbs 15:22)

2. CHILDREN ARE TO BE RAISED WITH *COMPETENCE* AND *CONFIDENCE*.

A. Children are a *Gift* of God.

“Sensible children bring joy to their father...” (Proverbs 15:20 NLT)

B. Parents are to be *Generous* to Their Children.

“So give your father and mother joy! May she who gave you birth be happy.” (Proverbs 23:25 NLT)

C. Parents are to *Guide* Their Children.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” (NLT)

3. THE FAMILY IS TO BE *CULTIVATED*, NOT *CONFLICTED*.

A. The *Giving* Family.

“Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9 NLT)

B. The *Gracious* Family.

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” (Proverbs 16:32 RSV)

C. The *Growing* Family.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT)

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (Romans 8:28)