

**Twelve Lessons**

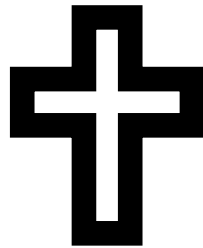
*on*

***The Home***

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The image shows a handwritten signature or logo in black ink, consisting of the Greek letters 'ΧΑΡΙΣ' (Charis) with a stylized flourish above the letters.

## **THE HOME – LESSON 1**

**Text: Genesis 2:15-25**

**Introduction:** One of the most blessed of all human relationships is the union of a man and a woman as “one flesh” in the marriage covenant. God designed us for marriage – physically, spiritually, and emotionally. He made us male and female with the marriage relationship in mind.

It has well been said, God made them Adam and Eve. Two men or two women being married is a complete perversion of God’s view of marriage, and has the judgment of God upon it. A few years ago there would have been no need for such clarification of the marriage contract, but we are living in strange times.

God sanctifies the marriage relationship. Jesus spoke of marriage as what “*God hath joined together*” (Matthew 19:6). That means that marriage is ordained of God, blessed of God, and is a union under God. Marriage is a sacred relationship. God is the creator and the preserver of the home.

The purpose of the lessons in this series is to help make your home truly a Christian home. There is a vast difference between a home where Christians live, and a Christian home. In a Christian home Christ is the head and His will is the law. That is the kind of home that endures to the happiness of the family members, to the blessing of the community, to the strength of the church, and to the glory of God. Amen!

We pray, “God, give us Christian homes,” but a Christian home is not simply the gift of God; it is also the result of faith, prayer, and effort on the part of those who live there. It takes a lot of Christian living to make a house a home. We need rather to ask God to help us work to have a Christian home.

### **Lesson Goals:**

1. To establish the positions of a Godly home.
2. To emphasize the importance of a head in the home.
3. To stress the role of the woman in the home.

### **Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:**

1. Adam – [ADD um] (red, ground)-the name of a man and a city in the Old Testament: The first man, created by God on the sixth day of creation, and placed in the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:19-23; 3:8-9,17,20-21; 4:1,25; 5:1-5). He and his wife EVE, created by God from one of Adam's ribs (Gen 2:21-22), became the ancestors of all people now living on the earth. Adam was unique and distinct from the animals in several ways. His creation is described separately from that of the animals and the rest of God's creative acts (Gen 1:3-25,26-27; 2:7). God breathed into Adam's body of "dust" the divine "breath of life; and man became a living being" (Gen 2:7). God also made man in his own image and likeness. The exact words are, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Gen 1:26). The apostle Paul interprets this to mean that God created man with spiritual, rational, emotional, and moral qualities (Eph 4:24-32; Col 3:8-10). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
2. Head – The position of a person's head symbolized various emotions. Wagging the head meant derision; bowing the head showed grief; covering the head with one's hand suggested shame (2 Sam 13:19; Isa 58:5; Mark 15:29). To lift up a person's head was to elevate him to higher rank (Gen 40:20; Jer 52:31). For blood to be on the head of someone meant for that person to bear responsibility and guilt for some specified action (Josh 2:19; Acts 18:6). To heap coals of fire on someone's head meant to make an enemy ashamed by treating him well (Rom 12:20). The word head is often used of inanimate objects such as rivers to designate a beginning point or top part of the object (Gen 2:10; Ps 24:9). In this sense, several important messianic prophecies refer to Christ as the "head corner stone" (Ps 118:22; Luke 20:17; 1 Peter 2:7). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
3. Soul – A word with two distinct meanings in the Bible: (1) That which makes a human or animal body alive. This usage of the word soul refers to life in the physical body. The best example of this usage are those passages in the New Testament in which the Greek word for soul is translated as life. "For whoever desires to save his life [soul] will lose it," Jesus declared, "but whoever loses his life [soul] for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36-37). This idea is also present in the Old Testament. For example, the soul of a dying person departed at death (Gen 35:18). The prophet Elijah brought a child back to life by stretching himself upon the child three times and praying that God would let the child's soul come back into him (1 Kings 17:19-23). (2) The word soul also refers to the inner life of man, the seat of his emotions, and the center of human personality. The first use of the word soul in the Old Testament expresses this meaning: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (soul)" (Gen 2:7). This means more than being given physical life; the biblical writer declares that man became a "living soul," or a person, a human being, one distinct from all

other animals. The soul is described as the seat of many emotions and desires: the desire for food (Deut 12:20-21), love (Song 1:7), longing for God (Ps 63:1), rejoicing (Ps 86:4), knowing (Ps 139:14), and memory (Lam 3:20). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

## **I. THE HEAD OF THE HOME – GOD.**

**A. The account of God's instituting the home is recorded in Genesis 2:15-25.** There are ten references to God in eleven verses. That means that God is at the very center of the institution of the home in human society.

**B. During the 1960's,** when the hippie culture was in full swing and young people were living together in communal groups, a lot of the liberals were saying, "God is dead, marriage is on the way out, there is no place in society for a one man and one woman marriage." The hippies and the flower children are gone, God still lives, men and women are still getting married, and homes are still together.

1. God created male and female with marriage in mind.
2. Genesis 5:1,2 summarizes the actions of God on the "day" He created the male and female arrangement. Then He gave this explanation: "*For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh* (Matthew 19:5)."
  - a. The woman was created after the man. Genesis 2:22 – "*And the rib, which the LORD GOD had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*"
  - b. "While Adam slept, Eve from his side arose, how sad that man's first sleep should be his last repose." And all of God's men said, AMEN!

**C. God established the home first.** It was before the state, school, or church. It is the first institution in human society. It is first because it is basic. As goes the home so goes the church; as goes the church so goes the nation.

1. Weak homes produce a weak society. That is the reason the devil has such an attack going against marriage and the home today.
2. For the good of country, your schools, and your churches, build a strong Christian home.

**D. God established an order of authority in the home.** It is God, husband, wife, children, in descending order. The Bible clearly sets forth that order.

1. Ephesians 5:22-23 – "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife.*"
2. Ephesians 6:1 – "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*" Man did not set up those rules; God did. (If you have a problem with that, take it up with God!)
3. The head of the children are the parents; the head of the woman is the man; the head of man is Christ; the head of Christ is God (I Corinthians 11:3). To change that order is to defy the ordinance of God.
4. When a Christian woman submits herself to Christ and lets Him be the Lord of her life, she will have no difficulty submitting to her husband. This does not mean that she becomes a slave, for the husband is to submit himself to Christ, and if both are under the leadership of Christ, there will be harmony in the home. Headship is not dictatorship. Each for the other, both for Christ (I Peter 3:7).
5. God has put guidelines for home life in the Bible. To have a happy home, one must follow those guidelines. The purpose of this series of lessons is to review some of those guidelines to help you direct your home in the will of God. Don't be like the old proverb, "After all else fails, read the instructions." The Bible is the book of instructions on how to have a successful Christian home.

## **II. THE HUSBAND OF THE HOME – MAN**

**A. The man was the first person to be created.** Genesis 2:7 – "*The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*"

1. Paul based his authority to teach on that fact. I Timothy 2:12-13 – "*But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man ... For Adam was first formed, then Eve.*"
2. The priority of man gave him a place of leadership. God decreed it to be so. I have heard some women say, "My husband is not as smart as I am, so I have to take the responsibility in the home." My answer to that is, if you were dumb enough to marry him, you should be dumb enough to follow him.

**B. The man was fulfilled in his companion.** God's creation was perfect in every way, except one. God said, in Genesis 2:18 – "*It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*" And He did.

1. The Bible emphasizes the contribution a good wife makes to her husband.
  - a. Proverbs 12:4 – "*A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband (makes him feel like a king).*"

- b. Proverbs 19:14 – “*A prudent wife is from the LORD.*”
  - c. Proverbs 31:12 – “*She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*”
2. It is no wonder God gave the woman to the man to complement him. He needs her and she contributes much to him.

**C. The man is responsible for the family.** God’s call to a family is always addressed through the man. This places an awesome responsibility upon the husband.

- 1. Genesis 7:1 – God called Noah (not Mrs. Noah) to “bring all the family into the ark.”
- 2. Genesis 12:1 – God called Abram (not Sarai) to “leave Ur of the Chaldees to dwell in Canaan.”
- 3. Genesis 18:9 – God held Abraham (not Sarah) responsible to “command his children and his household after him.”
- 4. Matthew 2:13-21 – God called Joseph (not Mary) to take the baby Jesus into Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod, and afterwards to bring them back to Palestine.
- 5. The husband is responsible for his entire household before God. It is not to be taken lightly.

### **III. THE HELPER IN THE HOME – WOMAN**

**A. Since man is the head of the home, the woman is the heart.**

**B. She is its anchor.** She sets its emotional tone. Since she fulfills the man, she is essential to a happy home. A home with two heads is a monstrosity. One head without a heart is a dead corpse.