

The Harvester



Preparing Souls

To Serve The Lord



Volume 38

January 2018

Number 6

Do You Understand The Biblical View of The Home?

A Lectureship Book Worthy of Its Place!

By Brian R. Kenyon

Our twenty-fifth hard cover lectureship book will prove to be one of the most useful. The family is at the heart of human existence and is a subject that must be studied and comprehended by each generation in order for a society to be successful and well pleasing to God. This is the nineteenth book I have edited and by far the most emotion-invoking one with which I have ever been involved. Having lost a wife over seven years ago and now being part of a blended family, many of these chapters were therapy and/or practical instruction manuals. As you will see from the table of contents (on page 3), this book includes many non-traditional topics because many of today's families are definitely not "traditional," yet they are legitimately real, in need of Biblical guidance. These lessons address subjects involving today's families that are not found in other lectureship books.

Below are some quotes from the book to give *Harvester* readers an idea of what this printed lectureship volume consists. Books may be ordered from the office or purchased at our lectureship or lectureships where the school has a display.

Biblical Foundations

To find the beginning of the home, a person must study creation week. The man and woman and thus the first husband and wife were created on the sixth

day of creation (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:18-25). In his chapter titled, "Family Beginnings: A Study of Genesis 2:18-24," Stephen Atnip, while commenting on Jesus' use of Genesis 1:26-27 in answering the Pharisees' question in Mt. 19:3, writes:

Their question dealt with the solubility of marriage. In answering this question, Jesus first went back to the passage in Genesis 1:27. It is most interesting that the gender nature of the passage was picked up by Jesus, even using the words from the LXX to describe their genders: *arsen* (male) and *thelus* (female) (Mt. 19:4). It should be obvious to the reader that gender plays an indisputable part in the marriage principles of both the Old and New Testaments. That emphasis by Jesus is quite remarkable since he could have simply quoted Genesis 2:24 in reference to their leaving and cleaving and becoming one flesh (Mt. 19:5). However, Jesus took this opportunity to emphasize the opposite genders as the only ones under consideration in the marriage law of creation, and thereby, the marriage law of the New Testament.

Steve also elaborates on the "mystery" in Ephesians 5:31-33 to the Genesis account:

All marriages are now to be based upon the marriage of Jesus to the church, which was foreshadowed in Adam at the beginning. In this way, Adam and his bride were a great mystery ready to be revealed in Christ. The marriage of Christ to the church was first

in the mind of God, and the marriage of Adam and Eve was merely the shadow of this great marriage of Jesus and the church.

Basic Awareness

In this section of the book, potential abuses and various aspects of what can go wrong or bring about unexpected challenges in marriage and the home are examined. Practical advice is also given that will help those struggling with these issues.

When a young Christian couple Scripturally marries, the last thing they expect is to lose one another. Spouses can lose each other in two ways: through death or, even more devastating, through infidelity in the marriage. Logan Summers, in his chapter on "Dealing with Adultery," gives these encouraging words to those whose marriages have been affected by this sin:

Adultery hurts. Jesus helps. God "heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds" (Ps. 147:3). After adultery, spouses will have to get used to a new normal. Things will never be as they once were. The Lord, however, is still Shepherd (Ps. 23). Hurting Christians can hope and trust in him and know their hope extends far beyond the present time.

Death is another way spouses lose each other. While Christian spouses should eventually expect to have to deal with death, it is still a difficult challenge. Dean Miller, in his chapter, "Surviving Widowhood," writes:

[L]ife after love and loss is unique to the individual. "We must remember that no two people are

the same, nor are any two grief situations identical" (Westberg 57). Think of all the factors that may impact the experience of loss: age, gender, personality, length and quality of marriage, circumstances of the death, children, maturity of children, finances, and degrees of faith. Though people feel compelled to comfort saying, "I know how you feel," that is never literally true. Because of life experiences, some people can and do have a deeper appreciation for the similar struggles of others, but no one lives in another's skin. Widows and widowers are not made with a cookie cutter. Grieving people can be unnecessarily upset (and even add to their burden!) by thinking they are not healing or recovering like someone else.

The death of a parent can also be devastating, especially when she is relatively young. In his chapter, "Sustaining Faith through Unexpected Loss," Rick Kenyon writes:

Christians must understand that the wisdom from God's word details *how* to live godly during any circumstance more than *why* the godly end up in unfortunate circumstances. Finding the answer to the question, "Why did this happen to me?," will never be as fruitful as finding the answer to the question, "How can God use me during this time?"

Home Wreckers

In present Western culture, pornography is a major challenge to godly marriage, even before couples meet and decide to marry. The ease with which it is

The Harvester

Published Monthly
Florida School of Preaching
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803
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*Our final deposit for the month is usually made on the last Wednesday of the month. All contributions received after that time are reported on the next month's financial statement.

accessible, the control it takes over a person's psyche, and the resulting estrangement from everything that is good make pornography one of the most destructive threats to society as a whole, not to mention its threat to the home! Pornography drives God from the home, destroys sexual oneness between husband and wife, and devalues spouses. In his chapter, "Pornography's Impact on the Home," Jack Wilkie reminds readers about the basic problem with pornography use:

Though the story [of Ted Bundy's use of pornography leading to his depraved killing spree] is horrifying, and though there are other criminals who have similar stories (including some of Bundy's fellow inmates, he claimed), using Bundy in an attempt to scare people away from using pornography actually hurts the effort.

There are tens of millions of pornography users in America, and it is safe to say that nearly all of them will successfully avoid becoming serial killers. Warning people based on what *might* happen keeps people from focusing on what absolutely *will* happen. What *will* happen for every pornography user is that all of them will have trouble with drawing near to God, with sharing oneness with their spouses, and with selfishly retreating within themselves. Worst of all, of course, there will be no eternal salvation for them if they continue in sin without repentance (Heb. 10:26).

Blended Families

The term "blended family" may be new to some *Harvester* readers. Jerry Martin, in his chapter, "Blended Families: Different from the Start, Same in the End," sets the stage for the series of discussions in the lectureship book dealing with aspects of this subject:

All family dynamics pose unique challenges. However, no family configuration poses more challenges than the blended family ... For the purpose of this discussion, "Blended Families" will be defined as "legally reconstituted families formed when previously married persons who have children from their first marriage remarry" (Messinger 193) ... in contrast to the "nuclear family," which is defined as one husband, one wife, one marriage with one or more children from the one union (Hunt 1).

Conclusion

Marriage, as God intended, should be "the closest thing to heaven this side of eternity" (cf. Gen. 2:18-25), and the home should be like a godly oasis from the struggles of this sinful world (cf. Eph. 5:22-6:4). Sin, however, has destroyed both of those ideals in many marriages and homes. This book addresses many of these unique-to-our-culture challenges with age-old, God-inspired principles. This book will be a great addition to anyone's library!

Do You Understand The Biblical View of the Home?

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Monday	__ 8:30-12:00	Denominational Dogmas (131)	Bauer	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Marriage and the Family (254)	Richardson	3
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Thursday	__ 6:00-8:30	Wisdom Literature (248) (Tenth Street church of Christ, Apopka)	Kenyon	2.5
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