

Harmony in the Home

We began the series “Living in Harmony” when we arrived at Romans 15:5 during our study of Romans. This verse is the center of a long passage that began at Romans 12:3 and deals with human relationships, specifically relationships between fellow Christians. The principle is that harmony between believers is the natural outworking of the doctrines of Salvation that God has applied to our lives, and the natural demonstration of Christ in the life of a believer. “*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus*” (Romans 15:5). This exhortation to maintain a “spirit of unity” appears elsewhere in Scripture, and one of the primary evidences of the indwelling presence of Christ in the life of a believer.

Romans 12:16, “*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*”

Philippians 4:2, “*I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.*”

1 Peter 3:8 “*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.*”

So we can observe that Romans 12-15 follow the great doctrinal section of Romans and address relationships in the family of God. A similar truth is found in Ephesians. The great doctrinal section of Ephesians is followed by a very practical section (chapters 4-6). Once again we see relationships at the heart of this practical section in Ephesians, just as we found in the practical section of Romans.

Harmonious Christian living is the theme of Ephesians 5 and 6. Three key relationships are described, and goals for Christian harmony are given for each one. These relationships are wives and husbands (5:22-32), children and fathers (6:1-4) and slaves and masters (6:5-9). Note the emphatic place of the subjects at the beginning of each section. Also note that the instructions for these three relationships begin with the person in a submissive role, and that the person in the position of authority has an equal or greater responsibility in maintaining harmony.

Today, we will examine only the first two sets of relationships, as our focus is on the Christian home. God cares about harmony in the home, with good reason - your HOME is the greatest human influence in your life!

The following scale ranks the major stress factors that occur in people’s lives and assigns a value to each. 8 of the top 12 most stressful life events are related to something that takes place in the home! This is a reminder to us of the importance of our homes in forming and influencing our lives.

[Death of spouse](#) 100

Divorce 73
Marital separation from mate 65
Detention in jail, other institution 63
Death of a close family member 63
Major personal injury or illness 53
Marriage 50
Fired from work 47
Marital reconciliation 45
Retirement 45
Major change in the health or behavior of a family member 44
Pregnancy 40

God created the HOME to be a place of HARMONY

In the GARDEN of Eden, man and woman were in perfect harmony.

Genesis 2:8 *Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.* Genesis 2:20–25 *So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

In this text we see that God has established the home on "5 Pillars"

1. The pillar of Legacy - "leave your father and mother"
2. The pillar of Unity - "be united to his wife"
3. The pillar of Intimacy - "one flesh"
4. The pillar of Purity - "they were both naked" Paul Benware suggests that their shame following the event of their sin was that the glory of God that once clothed them was removed. Prior to the fall, they were clothed in the glory of God! In heaven, we will once again be clothed in God's glory! Isaiah 61:10 says. *"I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."*
5. The pillar of Security - "they felt no shame"

Not only is the Marriage relationship blessed by God and a source of harmony, but children that come from those marriages are blessed by God.

Psalm 127:3 *"Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him."*

Proverbs 3:33 *"The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous."*

Psalm 37:25–26 *“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. 26 They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.”*

God’s blessing is given to marriages and children!

But SIN destroyed this harmony!

1. Fighting.
2. Conflict concerning roles.
3. Raising children
4. Debt/ spending
5. Trials
6. Health
7. Broken promises. Broken trust
8. When one partner changes the rules
9. A rebellious child.

God seeks to RESTORE HARMONY in our HOMES

Restoration to the harmony that God intended will not be complete until we are with the Lord and our sinful nature is removed. But we can promote harmony and enjoy God’s blessings in our marriages and homes while we are here on earth.

Restored harmony is brought about through Christ.

Malachi 4 is the last chapter in the Old Testament. There is a promise that relates to the coming of John the Baptist, a prophet after the model of Elijah. The Elijah type prophet would introduce the Messiah, who would ultimately bring about the restoration of all things. This prophet would begin to *“Malachi 4:6 “turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers....”* Here we find a promise that family unity will be restored when through the ministry of the Messiah! Jesus is the One who heals our homes.

Malachi’s prophesy is reiterated in Luke 1:11-17, when an angel describes the ministry of John to his father, Zechariah .

The GOSPEL would restore.

1. HUSBAND/ WIVES.
 - a. Wives should submit to their husbands like the church submits to Christ. (Ephesians 5:24)
 - b. Husbands should love their wives like Christ loved the church (5:25)
 - c. Husbands should care for their wives like Christ cares for the church. (5:28-29)
 - d. The union of a husband and wife is a picture of our salvation! (5:31-32)
 - e. Our MARRIAGES show the world how much Christ loves them!
One husband who exemplifies this is Don Hodel. He was the Secretary of the Interior under President Reagan. I heard his testimony on a Focus on the Family broadcast on 2/19/2010 titled “A Love to Last the Ages.” In August of 2007, Don was startled from his study by the sound of his wife falling down their staircase.

When he arrived, Barbara was lifeless and badly injured. A 911 operator talked him through CPR and Barbara clung to life until rescue workers arrived. She was airlifted to a trauma hospital and remained there for 6 months. Everything in Don's life stopped. His speaking engagements, the leadership of a large ministry, all of the business affairs of this very successful and high profile Christian leader. During the interview I listened to, Barbara and Don described their love for one another and the commitment that Don has shown. Barbara remains completely paralyzed and is dependent on Don for her very life. His full time occupation is to care for Barbara, and he loves her more today than he ever did. In fact, he described that the love he has for her today surpassed their youthful relationship because of the trials that they must endure together.

2. CHILDREN/ FATHERS (Parents)
 - a. Honoring your father is right. (Ephesians 6:1)
 - b. Honoring your parents brings LONG LIFE. (Eph 6:3)
 - c. *It pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*
 - d. It is related to honoring GOD. Luke 11:9-13 (“son asks for a fish..”)
 - e. Those who rebel establish a life of DIFFICULTY
 - i. Proverbs 15:5 *A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.*
 - ii. Proverbs 3:33 *The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.*
 - f. Children, you have the ABILITY to break the HARMONY in your HOME. But beware, it comes with a great price!
 - i. Proverbs 10:1 *“A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.”*
 - ii. A mother waiting up until her son comes home.
 - iii. A father with a broken heart because a daughter is with the wrong people.

Principles for Harmony - How do we enjoy the harmony Christ gives us?

1. Only CHRIST can bring harmony in your home
2. FOLLOW CHRIST, even if you are the only one in your home that does!
3. Put other's needs above your own. Phil 2:5
4. Submit your will to the Father.
5. Guard your tongue.
 - a. Psalm 39:1 *I said, “I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence.”*
 - b. Proverbs 21:23 *He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.*
6. Forgive as Christ has forgiven you.