



The Biblically-Healthy Household Pt 1: Built upon the Rock of Christ

May 3, 2020

Text: Matthew 7:24-27

Clarifications and Cautions:

- We have two main goals this year: to become **healthier** to **help** as many people as possible.
- In my opinion, much of what we've gone through over the last two months, if viewed correctly, as can serve to reignite our passion to follow hard after God!
- As we look at the household, know that this isn't about a white picket fence or a westernized version of family. This message is for **everyone**, "traditional" families, blended families, single-parent families, and even broken families! (Prayerfully, by the time we are done this month, much of that brokenness will be under the Blood!)
- *A caution: Let us be VERY careful of adjusting the Bible to cultural norms rather than cultural norms to the Bible!*
- *Another clarification: we know that not everyone is saved in every family!*
- So, this is NOT about guilt or condemnation; it IS about growth and encouragement. None of us are perfect; we all have sinned! God lays out the biblical standard not for us to be sad **but glad!**
- May we all experience the blessing of the Philippian Jailer:

Acts 16:31-33 (KJV) *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*

So as we walk through this together over the next month, if it be the Lord's will, and we hit an area where you find yourself or your family deficient, **look at it as an opportunity! Look at it through the lens of the love of God! Amen!**

The Why

- There few things more important than the household unit.
- Proof: after creating everything, God created the household.

Genesis 1:27-28 (KJV) *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Genesis 2:18 (KJV) *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

Genesis 2:21-25 (KJV) *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be*

called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. **24** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. **25** And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- We'll talk more about this later on this month, but our society has the order of importance precisely backwards. We often think of the state first instead of the household.
- From an impact on the Kingdom perspective however, the household comes before the state!
- If this is true, can you see why biblically healthy households are so important?
- Can you also see why Satan hates the biblical household?

Proposition 1: Every part of our lives is stronger and healthier when built on the Rock of Christ
Proposition 2: Family is no different. No matter how a household looks on the outside, or what it achieves from a worldly perspective, true biblical health can only be found in Jesus!

Matthew 7:24-27

In our Text, Jesus taught some very clear lessons:

1. A "house" (where one "lives") is a good analogy for a person's life and **obedience**. (v24)
2. Jesus and His "sayings" are the rock. (v24)
3. Those who build upon the rock are **wise**! (v24)
4. Every "house" must be **ready** for rain, floods, and wind to beat upon it! (v25)
5. Those who hear but refuse to listen (or build upon the rock) are called **foolish**. (v26)
6. A foolish person's house is said to be built on sand. (v26)
7. A house built upon sand will not withstand the coming storms! (v27)

Foundational Declarations of the Biblically-Healthy Family

Therefore, characteristic of the biblically-healthy family is the below heart. Such a heart shows in their actions, is manifested in their attitudes, and flows out of their mouths!

- **John 20:28 (KJV)** *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*
- **Acts 2:36 (KJV)** *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*
- **Acts 10:34-36 (KJV)** *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: **35** But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. **36** The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)*
- **Romans 6:23 (KJV)** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*
- **Romans 10:9-10 (KJV)** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- **1 Corinthians 1:9 (KJV)** *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- **Ephesians 4:5 (KJV)** *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

- **Revelation 19:16 (KJV)** *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Built upon the Rock of Christ: Seven Principles of Health

1. Christ's Person and Work is **foundational**.

- The biblically-healthy family knows and accepts who Jesus is and what He has done:

John 1:1 (KJV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

John 1:14 (KJV) *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

- They know He is God in flesh, the Second Person of the triune Godhead.
- They know He died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Cor 15:3-4)
- They know that "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

2. Christ's Gospel is the primary household **motivator**.

- The biblically-healthy family is motivated by who Christ is and what He has done!
- **John 14:15 (KJV)** *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*
- His birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension are why a healthy family strives to keep his commandments and make disciples!
- Scripture calls His salvation "great!" (Heb 2:3) The biblically-healthy family rejoices in this greatness!
- A healthy family knows they are modeling for the world the picture of Christ and church!

Ephesians 5:31-32 (KJV) *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

3. Christ is worshipped, discussed, and **preached**.

- The apostle Paul, before making sure the church at Colossae understood roles and responsibilities in the family, said...

Colossians 3:16-17 (KJV) *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

- Richly: abundantly, extravagantly, lavishly, largely, unto overflow!
- From the bulk of their entertainment, to family talks, to the songs they sing, Christ is the focus!

- The healthy family breathes in and breathes out the Lord Jesus Christ!
4. Christ's full joy is sought-after and **growing**.
- As a result of such a firm and solid foundation, the healthy family grows in joy.
 - Oh, we are not saying that there won't be tragedy or difficulties. We're not even saying they won't be times where attitudes are terrible! We are saying that the healthy family cannot stay there because of their walk with Jesus!

John 15:9-12 (KJV) *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

Romans 14:17 (KJV) *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

5. Christ's warnings are accepted and **heeded**.
- Yes, the biblically-healthy family knows that life will not always be easy. Our LORD said:

Matthew 16:24 (KJV) *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

John 15:20 (KJV) *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

John 16:33 (KJV) *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Paul said,

Romans 8:35-37 (KJV) *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

- **This is important! Again, biblical health is not necessarily commensurate with temporary prosperity. It's about Christ, not circumstances. A biblically-healthy family could be struggling with many things for Christ's sake.**
- When you are praying for and evaluating the maturity of your household. Make sure you measure rightly, not as the world measures! **Are we faithful? Are we striving after Jesus? Are we carrying our crosses?**

6. Christ's church is **vital** in the life of the household.

- In the context of apostasy, the writer of Hebrews wrote, "*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." **Hebrews 10:23-25 (KJV)***
- I believe a healthy family, just like a healthy Christian, is connected to a local body of believers.
- I'll go a step further and say that I have never seen a biblically-healthy family that does not passionately participate in the life of the church.
- Why? Because in part, **God designed the church to foster spiritual growth and health!**

Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV) *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

- This passage goes on to speak of unity of faith and knowledge of Christ, maturity in doctrine, truth, and discernment, growth in Jesus, and building up one another in love! (Eph 4:13-16)
- **Do you want these things in your household? Does your family see the church a vital?**

7. Christ's service is a **reasonable**.

- A biblically-healthy household serves. Again, I've never seen long-term biblical health in an individual, family, or church with a totally inward focus. Can't happen!
- Paul wrote,

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- Can you imagine the health produced when members of a household are willing to sacrifice themselves for God and one another, walk in holiness, and refuse to be conforming to the world?
- I love the KJV here: *reasonable service*. Can you imagine health produced when in humility, no one is expecting a reward for doing their duty?
- **The healthy family humbly serves. The benefits are many: humility, contentment, following Christ's example, less selfishness, fulfillment, reliance on the Holy Spirit, household camaraderie, etc.**

Final thoughts:

I say again, we are not after some contrived, idyllic, utopian version of family. Rather, our goal is to obey God's Word and build upon the Rock of Christ!

It's hard to imagine biblical health that does begin and end in Christ! Ultimately, a biblically-healthy household see themselves as members of God's household!

Ephesians 2:19-22 (KJV) *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

May this be true of your family as well, and may this month be are catalyst in growth and blessing in your household!

Amen.