

BUILDING A STRONG AND HAPPY FAMILY

OUTLINE

1. The possibilities of marriage and family.

2. God's purpose for the family.

3. Qualities of a strong and happy family.

4. Building blocks of a strong and happy family.

**5. Becoming a model marriage and family – the example of
Aquila and Priscilla**

**TEXTS: Gen. 1: 26 – 28; 2: 18- 25; Joshua 24: 15; Eph. 5: 21
– 33.**

The Possibilities of Marriage and Family

- Marriage is as good an idea as it was in the beginning. It still works. It still blesses. It's still the best thing going in a sometimes lonely, mostly cynical world. There is a good reason for that. Matrimony has survived and spanned thousands of years since Adam and Eve, because it came from the heart and mind of God. (Mitch Temple – *The marriage turnaround*)

God's Purpose for the Family – Eph. 5:25 -29; Malachi: 2: 14.

1. To duplicate His image and character in human relationships.
2. To make life and living more affirming and enjoyable.
3. To perpetuate God's knowledge in children.
4. To serve Him.

Qualities of a Strong and Happy Family

1. Knowledge and fear of God.
2. Active involvement in God's service.
3. Members of the family working and relating as a team, having a sense of belonging.
4. Husband and wife enjoying fellowship, companionship, and friendship.

Qualities of a Strong and Happy Family

5. Husband and wife submitting to each other, sharing warmth, acceptance, and affection daily.
6. Husband and wife engaging in spiritual warfare together against Satan and his agents who are bent on destroying marriages and families.
7. Husband and wife bearing one another's burdens and lifting up each other daily in prayers.
8. Husband and wife extending mature love to each other – the love that prefers the other and where the happiness and progress of one is as important and of priority as the other.

Qualities of a Strong and Happy Family

9. Children are being taught the way of the Lord and are obedient to the faith.

10. Children honouring and respecting their parents and progressively becoming examples to believers and unbelievers.

11. Husband and wife growing in the knowledge of each other and becoming progressively more passionate and excited about their relationship.

Building Blocks of a Strong and Happy Family

1. The fear of God – example of Joseph (Gen. 42:18).

Manifestation: Whatever is done or not done is constrained by the love of God and obedience to His Word.

2. Willingness and obedience – Isaiah 1: 19.

Manifestations: Leaving and cleaving; readily extending forgiveness; words being gracious;

submitting one to another; being affectionate one to another.

3. Knowledge and understanding – 1Pet. 3:7; 2Tim. 2; 15

Principles/Instructions: Husbands to live their wives with understanding; God's people perish for lack of knowledge; Christians are to study to show themselves approved – to exhibit excellence.

4. Growth and Progress – 2Pet. 1: 3 -5.

Principles/Instructions: Let your progress be evident to all; let your light so shine; be progressive in the development of godly virtues, including patience, goodness, kindness, and love; we should not settle for routines.

Communication – Gen. 2: 25; 2 Sam. 12: 1- 3; Song of Solomon Chap. 1 -7;

Prov. 5: 15 -19.

Communication is all about sharing – sharing of everything. There are four types of communication: verbal, sexual, non-sexual, and financial.

1. Verbal Communication: talking and listening, giving attention; sharing feelings and emotions, including fears, joys, sorrows, doubts, disappointments. It's being **VULNERABLE** without being afraid.

- 2. Sexual Communication:** They were naked but were not ashamed. God's prescription is outlined in Prov. 5: 15 – 19.
- 3. Non-sexual Communication:** This is has to do with emotional and social connection – essentially the romance aspect of marriage. The features of this include: affirmation, appreciation, hugs, holding hands, giving gifts, kisses, wooing and dating your spouse all over again.

NOTE: Any act that will enhance your spouse's sense of value, acceptance, and being wanted will qualify for non-sexual communication.

Binding and Loosing/Spiritual Warfare/Prayer of Authority

Principles: Outlined in Mt. 18: 18 -19; 2 Corin. 10: 4-5; James 4:7; Ex. 28: 29; Isaiah: 62:1.

- i. We have Christ's authority to allow or disallow on earth.
- ii. We are empowered to use our spiritual weapons to pull down strongholds.
- iii. We are to resist the devil and he will flee from us.
- iv. We are to put God in remembrance of our issues and concerns constantly.

Loyalty and Grace – 1 Corin. 13: 5- 7; 2 Corin. 12: 9

Elements of Loyalty:

- i. Being your spouse's greatest supporter and cheerleader.
- ii. Believing the best of your spouse
- iii. To keep believing and hoping and praying even your spouse disappoints you time and time again.
- iv. Refraining from speaking negatively about your spouse to friends or outsiders.

Elements of Grace

- i. Not relying on your strength to do marriage.
- ii. Holding on to the sufficient grace of God to prosper in your marriage.
- iii. Affirming to yourself I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- iv. Running to God when you are tired, confused, disappointed, and you do not know what to do.
- v. Not taking laws into your hands.
- vi. Standing on the promises of God.

Becoming a Model Marriage and Family – the Example of Aquila and Priscilla.

Texts: Acts 18: 1- 2; Romans 16: 3 -5.

- i. Aquila and Priscilla have been described as a couple whose hearts beat together as one. They were always named together.
- ii. They contributed immensely to the growth of the early church.
- iii. They helped greatly Apostles like Paul and Apollos.