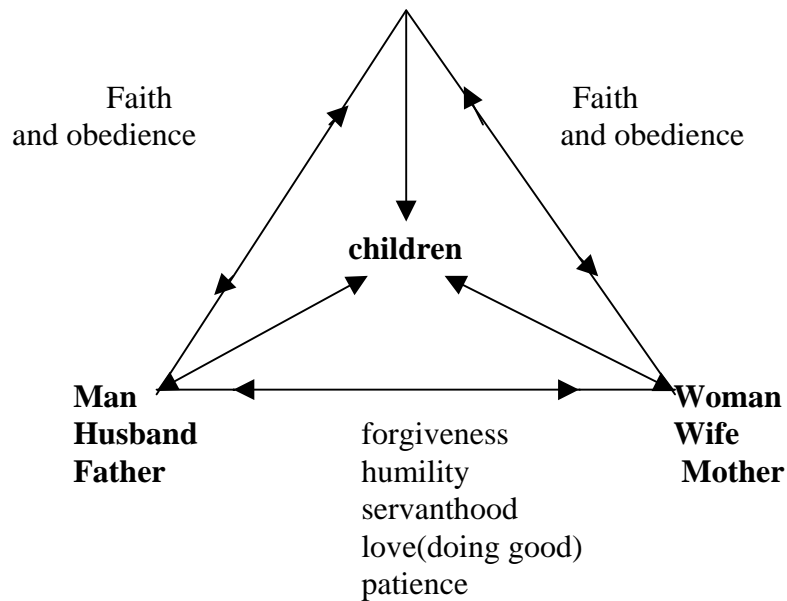


THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

(Full Gospel Assembly – Raub, West Malaysia - July 1996 - DMB-EKB)

1. Family life is God's plan for men and women, boys and girls, and it reflects the Eternal Family of our Father and God, *Eph 3:14,15*, which includes all His children in heaven and on earth. *2Cor 6:18, Gal 3:26, 1Jn 3:1, Rom 8:15*.
Jesus told us to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven...." *Lk 11:2*, and in *Jn 14,15,16,17* Jesus calls God, "Father," forty-nine times.
2. As Father, God begets us, (causes us to be born), into His Family, by drawing us to saving faith in Jesus Christ, and He provides, nourishes, protects, trains, guides and disciplines us. *1Pet 1:3, Lk 11:3,4, Gen 15:1, Ps 32:8, Heb 12:6, Gen 5:3,4, Ps 103:5, Ex 13:21*.
3. When God made man and woman He made them for the purpose of family. *Ps 68:6, Gen 1:26-28, Gen 2:21-25, Mat 19:4-6*.
They were to live in family. One man, one woman, joined together by God in an unbroken relationship of marriage. He blessed them to be fruitful and multiply and rule over the earth. The Lord is looking for godly children, *Gen 1:28, Mal 2:15*, in each family.
4. Children are the fruit and blessing of marriage, *Ps 127:3-5, Ps 128:3*. Family is the place where the children develop in a secure, loving environment, where they are nourished, protected, trained, guided, disciplined, taught about God and receive salvation, *Eph 6:4*.
5. God works by families, *Gen 12:3*.
Adam and Eve, *Gen 4:1,2*.
Noah and his wife and family, *Gen 6:10,18*.
Abraham and Sarah, *Gen 12:4,5*.
Isaac and Rebekah, *Gen 24:67*.
Zacharias and Elizabeth, *Lk 1:13*.
Aquila and Priscilla, *Ac 18:2, 1Cor 16:19*.
6. When God sent His Son to be our Redeemer, He sent Him into the family of Joseph and Mary, with brothers and sisters, *Mat 13:55,56, Mat 1:20-25, Lk 2:51*. During His childhood and teenage years Jesus obeyed Joseph and Mary. While He was dying on the Cross He was still caring for His mother in *Jn 19:26,27*.
7. The marriage of a man and a woman is a picture of the union that exists between Christ and the church. The man and woman become "one flesh", and in the church we are members of Christ's Body, of His flesh and His bones, *Eph 5:25-32*.
8. Marriage is ordained by God - *Mat 19:6, Gen 2:24*.
Marriage is God's plan for man and woman, and He gives grace and blessing to make it work to His glory, when the man and woman keep a right faith relationship with God, and live in love and service to one another. *1Pet 3:7, Gal 5:13, Eph 5:22-26, Josh 24:15, Eccl 4:12*.



FAMILY works by right relationships of love, humility, service, forgiveness, patience and kindness, *Eph 4:32*

9. The local church is made up of families. Where the families are strong in their oneness together, and their relationship with God, the local church is strong.
10. Relationships are made of love and mercy.
Love is doing good things to one another to help, encourage, bless, uplift, serve, strengthen and cheer, *Gal 5:13*. Mercy is forgiving one another for our many failures, mistakes and wrongs, *Mat 6:14,15, Mk 11:25,26, Jam 3:2*

GOD'S ORDER IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

1. God's Word is our Authority and Guide for marriage. In the world there are many other views of marriage. Do not follow the world, follow God's Word, *Rom 12:2*.
2. Marriage is for a man and a woman to live together as one in a committed, loyal, loving relationship, which is a caring, supportive, encouraging companionship.
3. Husband and wife are equal before God in His love, mercy and blessing, but they do not have the same role and function in marriage. God has chosen the husband to be the leader, provider, protector and the wife to be the helper, inspirer and co-labourer. As inspirer, the wife will often bring the wisdom needed for the husband to lead, *Eph 5:22-26*.
4. God said that the wife is to be a helper, suited to her husband, *Gen 2:18,20*. The Hebrew word for "helper" is EZER and is used of God in *Ps 121:1,2, Ps 33:20, Ps 70:5*.
5. Husband and wife do not have the same function in marriage but God has made them interdependent. God took a rib or side of man to make woman and then brought them together in marriage. In this way the wholeness of God's creation is restored. There is an incompleteness for man and woman without marriage.
"It is not good for man to be alone," *Gen 2:18*.

“He who finds a wife, finds a good helper and obtains blessing from the Lord,” *Pro 18:22*.

6. Husband and wife are different in nature.

The husband is:

- a. concerned for job, work, money and career
- b. more objective, has harder feelings to fight for a living
- c. more inclined to be too busy to spend time with wife and children
- d. the head of the family

The wife is:

- a. concerned for home, family and relationships
- b. more tender in feelings to care for children and home
- c. looking for companionship and friendship. Seeks relationship as a No 1
- d. the heart of the family

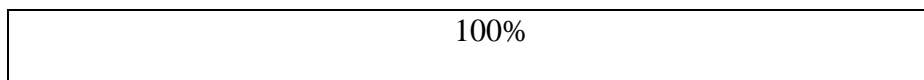
Husbands, recognise the needs of your wife, understand them, and meet her needs of tenderness and companionship, *Eph 5:25, Col 3:19, 1Pet 3:7*.

7. The world’s view of marriage is moving more and more toward independence for husband and wife. “Woman’s Liberation” is a move to independence of life, career, earning own living, pursuing own social life, equality of leadership. “Male Superiority” is a move to independence, separating husbands into all male company and keeping them from companionship with the family.

8. The world sees marriage as a 50/50 arrangement where the husband and wife each contribute 50% of personal life, time, money and possessions, but if trouble arises both parties draw back from each other.



God’s view of marriage is 100% commitment by both husband and wife.



9. For Christians, separation or divorce is not an option, *Mal 2:16, Mat 19:6*. If difficulties in relationship arise, forgive one another, pray for and with, each other, and make a determined faith stand that by God’s mercy and grace you will forgive, love, and serve each other to make the marriage work. Many other couples have done this, if not most, and many are doing it right now, *Ru 1:15-18*.

10. Before marriage the man makes the woman feel that she is No 1 in his life, time and money, but after marriage he may become too busy in his job, so that the woman feels she is now in No 2 or No 3 place in her husband’s world. This hurts the wife deeply and the marriage and the whole family suffers greatly. Make sure that your wife knows that she is always No 1 in your life and time.

11. In No 3 above, we said that there is equality before God in the marriage, but also that there is an order. This is also true in Godhead. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are Co-equal, but there is also an order, *Mat 28:19, equality, 1Cor 11:3, order*.

12. Do not use your ministry in the church as an excuse for neglecting your marriage, wife and family. A man’s first responsibility is to his wife and family, not to his ministry in the

church, *1Pet 3:7*. God's plans for us in His service will be fulfilled, as we faithfully fulfil our responsibilities as a husband and as a father. *Gen 18:19, Eph 6:4, Deut 6:4-9, 1Tim 3:2,4,5, Tit 1:6, Pro 22:6*.

13. The family is the centre of learning about life, work, labour, skills, practical ability, knowledge, wisdom and about God and His ways. The family is the place to learn of service to others, respect for authority, love, obedience, humility, kindness, forgiveness, truthfulness, joy and rejoicing and faithfulness.
14. Wise use of money is a key to family peace and happiness. The money that the husband earns is to be used for the benefit of the whole family. Only buy what you can afford. Give God the tithe that belongs to Him, *Mal 3:8-10, Gen 14:20, Gal 3:7,9, Mat 23:23*. This is honouring God with your money. Be careful with the credit card. Buy only what you need. Shop around first, *Phil 4:19*.
15. Give God first place in your marriage and family. Set aside time each day to gather as a family before the Lord Jesus, to pray and thank God, to read His Word, and to sing praises to His mighty Name. He is Worthy! After the evening meal is a good time. The family will know God's Word and they will believe and obey God's precious truth. You can use a Bible story book with many lovely pictures. *2Tim 3:15, Ps 78:4-6, Deut 6:4-9, Eph 6:4*.
16. Family togetherness has to be worked at because there are forces at work to destroy family values and relationships. Consider getting rid of the TV or else have firm control over its use. Do not use it as an uncontrolled child minder. The media encourages doing your own thing, rebellion against authority, materialism, immorality, violence, occult.
17. Children are blessings from God and are to be desired, *Ps 127:3-5, Ps 128:3,4, Ex 23:26*. God will save your children at an early age, fill them with His Holy Spirit, and make them mighty servants of God, as the parents pray for them, train them in God's ways and His Word, and claim God's promises for them each day. *Is 54:13,14, Is 49:25, Is 44:3,4, Ps 115:14, Is 65:23, Jer 31:16,17, Jer 30:10*,
18. Attend church worship as a family, *Heb 10:25*. Remember to be in the Lord's House, *1Tim 3:15*, on the Lord's Day to worship the Lord Jesus Christ as a family unit. The devil will try and stop you doing this. He will make every effort to make you upset, to make things go wrong and to get you in a rush. Therefore pray beforehand - the day before. Bind and break every attack and work of satan. Claim the Blood of Jesus over the family. Get up early and calmly prepare the family to go peacefully to church.
19. *Deut 6:9* talks about posting verses from God's Word around your house. Encourage one another to learn and confess them out aloud. Where you can, sing them as a song.
20. The promises of God are many, faithful and true. As you believe them, confess them out aloud, sing and thank God for them, God will bring them to pass. *2Pet 1:4, 2Cor 1:20, Heb 10:23, Heb 4:14, Heb 3:1, Josh 1:8, Num 23:19, Is 55:11*. The promises of God are our "promised land". Make sure you receive a list of God's promises to save your family. (No 27)

THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY

1Tim 5:14 - I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

1. The first duty of the wife is to seek the Lord daily for His Word, His will and understanding. Be sure that your ears are open to what the Lord is saying, i.e. pray, read the Word, praise the Lord, give thanks, *Eph 6:18, Ps 1, 1Thes 5:16-18*.
2. The role of the wife is to be a helper, inspirer, companion to her husband. In *Gen 2:18*, the word for "help" is EZER and *Ps 33:20* says the Lord is our EZER, *Ps 70:5, Ps 115:9,10,11*. The role of inspirer is a vital part as the woman is often more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. God said, "It is not good for a man to be alone," *Gen 2:18*. He needs a companion, *Pro 18:22*.
3. A woman complements her husband - so do not compete with him. A man and a woman fit together to make one whole. Man is the leader and woman the follower but they are co-equal in God's sight.
4. Communication and companionship. Make sure you keep communication lines open. Speak positively and encouragingly, give honour and respect to your husband and do not criticise him to others. Be loyal!
5. Be the keeper of the home, the home-maker, *Tit 2:5, 1Tim 5:14*. This means make the home tidy, clean, pleasant, peaceful, stable, and well organised. This is your best training ground. God will use every circumstance to mould and change you into His image as you do all as unto the Lord, *Col 3:17,23*.
6. Serve God where you are, *1Cor 7:20,24*, by ministering to your husband and family with thanksgiving, willingness and without resentment.
7. Be content with such things as you have, *Phil 4:11, Heb 13:5*. Pray together with your husband about major purchases and let it be a joint decision. Distinguish between needs and desires.
8. Support and encourage your husband. He needs your acceptance and love. Follow his lead after sharing the way you feel.
9. Be available and flexible so that you can do things together as opportunity arises.
10. Be quick to apologise when you have done wrong. Forgive and pray for your husband if you feel you have been wronged. Do not nag but pray, *Pro 31:26*. Provoke each other to love by doing something you know will please, *Heb 10:24*. God's grace is always sufficient, *2Cor 12:9*.

THE MOTHER'S RESPONSIBILITY

1. Mothers need to seek God daily for wisdom and grace to bring up their children, i.e. pray, read the Word, praise the Lord, claim the promises for themselves, children, church, unsaved, *Lk 18:1, Eph 6:18 etc*
2. Acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, circumstances, and home, i.e. bring all under His control and thus prepare a way for the Lord in your home, *Is 40:3*.
3. Claim the promises of God for your children. *Is 44:3-5, Is 49:25, Is 54:13, Is 59:21, Is 65:23, Ps 115:14,15, Ps 147:13,14, Pro 14:26*. Desire the best for your children which is not necessarily what they want.
4. Give your children a structured life with known boundaries to bring security, i.e.
 - a. give them a balanced diet
 - b. an ordered sleep pattern
 - c. protective guidelines from the outside world e.g. know where they are, who their friends are, monitor TV.
 - d. stimulate their bodies with exercise, and their minds with suitable reading and hobbies.
5. Teach your children obedience by insisting they do as they are told. Have an understanding with your husband so that you both discipline in the same way and support each other's discipline.
6. Sow love, considerateness, obedience, politeness and you will reap the same, *2Cor 9:6*. Give each child a set of duties to teach responsibility and faithfulness.
7. Love and accept your children as they are - each one is different and unique. Remember you are moulding a life and setting habits for the future. Take an interest in whatever your children are doing - watch their Saturday sport, be involved in their activities.
8. Give each child quality time each week. Let them know that they are special and that you are proud of them. Do not allow outside pressures to push your children out - they need to know that they are more important to you than anyone else. Spend time just talking to them.
9. Teach them that if they cannot say anything good, then they should say nothing, *Phil 4:8*.
10. Teach your children the Word of God, pray with them, give them Christian books to read.
11. Teach your children any skills you have - cooking, knitting, sewing, mending, craftwork, tapestry, etc.
12. Do not compare yourself with other women, *2Cor 10:12*. Take God's standard and what God is requiring of you and be faithful to that.

THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY

Mal 2:13-16

Ecc 9:9 - Live joyfully with your wife whom you love.

1. Husbands need to seek and call on God each day - pray, read the Word, praise the Lord, claim the promises for self, wife, children, church, work, unsaved, *Lk 18:1, Eph 6:18, Ps 1,*

Ps 5:3, Ps 55:17. Be alive in God! The grace to maintain your marriage covenant comes from God.

2. Husbands, gather your family around the Word of God, daily, after tea (or some other suitable time), to read, pray and sing. Use a good Bible story book for the young, videos, missionary stories. Explain the Word and pray for your family.
3. Communication, *1Pet 3:7* and Companionship *Mal 2:14*. It is very important to make time to talk, share, discuss issues with your wife. Listen to her. Plan these times -not late at night, 3 or 4 times/week. Tell her and show her that she is No 1 in your life and not second to anything.
4. Refuse to go out more than 2 or 3 nights/week. Be at home, available to wife and children, more nights than you go out.
5. Don't interfere with the home - it is the woman's domain - let her do it her way. She is the homemaker but the husband should be responsible for section, lawns, hedges - be the Mr Fixit man of broken windows, door knobs, washers, blocked drains etc, *Tit 2:5, Ps 128:3*.
6. Be manly, and stand for God, His Word, Will, Way, Truth, and this may cause misunderstanding, offence, ridicule from close family, friends, workmates. Do not abdicate spiritual leadership. Obey conscience at all times, *1Tim 1:5*.
7. Be the provider - it is God's will, *1Tim 5:8, 2Thes 3:10*.
8. Do all you can to help and encourage your wife to come to full spiritual maturity, *Eph 5:25-29*. Forgive her quickly and pray God's full blessing upon her. Release her from all judgmental thoughts and words.
9. Be a servant leader in your home, not dominating, harsh, overbearing, judging, condemning, intimidating, controlling. *Gal 5:13, Lk 22:27, Mat 20:28, Mat 23:11, Phil 2:5-7, Col 3:19(RSV)*. Do not use your authority for your own benefit.
10. Speak out appreciation for all your wife does. At the end of the meal, say, with the family a big thank you for the meal, washing, ironing, cleaning, shopping, sewing.
11. Show affection, love and tenderness to your wife, by word, and embrace.
12. Take burden for finance, tax returns, provision, protection and contact with tradesmen.
13. Apologise quickly when you have done wrong. Forgive her and pray for her when you feel wronged.
14. Be faithful to each other, *1Thes 4:3, 2Tim 2:22*.
Control your eyes, ears and mind. Cut off temptation. Avoid evil, lustful magazines, TV, videos and evil people. Men, do not counsel a woman on your own. Only look on your wife/husband with affection, *Job 31:1, Mat5:28,29*.

THE FATHER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Mal 2:13-16

1. Gather family around God's Word each evening. Sing praises and pray. Put God first. *2Tim 3:15, Eph 6:4*. Use a Bible story book with plenty of pictures for young children, *Deut 6:4-9, Gen 18:19, Ps 78:4-7*.
2. Children are God's gift to you and your wife. Highly value them, *Ps 127:3*.
3. Intercede for them each day, *Ezk 22:30, Is 60:18*. Build up that wall of salvation around them. Claim the promises of God, *Is 54:13,14, Is 49:25, Is 44:3-5, Ps 115:14,15(KJV), Is 59:21, Is 65:23* and many others.
4. Set a consistent example of godly living for the family by the way you:- honour God, believe His Word, care for the needy, give thanks, help others, tell the truth, use clean words, respect authority, rejoice and sing, speak to others, respect other's property, keep personal cleanliness and dress, *Pro 22:6*
5. Train them to obey, *Eph 6:1*. Tell them what to do and follow it through to see that it is done. If you don't, you are training them to be disobedient. Support your wife. Present a united front.
6. Love and accept your children as they are - each one is different, unique - some easy-going, some determined and selfwilled. Treat them differently, according to their personality but don't show favouritism - be fair, be equal.
7. Don't say please all the time, in a pleading way. Say, "John! take the rubbish out!" You are not asking them to do a favour.
8. In discipline be firm and fair. Show them that God requires you to punish disobedience and naughtiness. Do not discipline in anger. Set clear rules, boundaries and guidelines. Be consistent from day to day. Do not be harsh.
Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Pro 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child:
Tit 1:6, 1Tim 3:4, Deut 6:4-9.
 Do not be manipulated by fear of losing your children's affection. They will despise weakness to insist on right standards. Say NO to sex, violence, and occult on TV and switch it off. Do not disagree (as parents) about discipline in front of the children.
9. Take an interest in your children's activities, studies and schooling, Saturday sport, hobbies. Encourage them by taking them fishing, camping, tramping and to the beach. Play games with them, and pray with them at bed-time, *Mal 4:6*.
10. Be manly and strong on behalf of your children. If the teacher is rubbishing their faith in Christ, go straight to the classroom after school and tell them to stop it. Growl! *Jam 4:7*.
11. Have a set of duties for each one - inside, outside.
12. Do not allow them to speak rudely to their mother.
13. Teach your children the skills that you have such as:- replacing window glass, changing tap washers, painting and paper-hanging, changing car tyres, servicing the motor car,

using the computer, fax, copier, calculator, welding, soldering and using a variety of tools.

FAMILY - THE PROVING GROUND OF THE MINISTRY

1. The first responsibility of a man (or woman) in ministry is to his wife and family, not to the ministry. Order of responsibility - to God, to spouse, to children, to work, to ministry.
2. If a man is a failure as a husband and father, his ministry will eventually fall to pieces. (In the same way, that if our relationship with God fails our ministry will collapse).
1Tim 3:4,5, Gen 18:19, Tit 1:6, 1Tim 3:12.
3. The husband's responsibility to his wife is described in *Eph 5:25-27*.
 - a. v25 - to love his wife as Christ.....
 - b. v26 - to bring release and freedom by the Word.
 - c. v27 - enable his wife to become spiritually mature.
4. The wife's responsibility to her husband is given in v22-24. This is to acknowledge her husband's leadership role and to actively support, encourage and inspire him in it.
5. *1Cor 11:3* - As there is Co-equality and Order in the Godhead, so there is to be co-equality and order in the family. The husband and wife are co-equal in redemption and grace but different in function and order.
6. The husband and wife are a ministry team, with differing but complementary gifts. They are interdependent in ministry. A godly marriage relationship is very important for the home and for the church. The couple are to be one unit in God, praying together, reading and sharing the Word, serving one another in love and ministry together to others in need. Their relationship is to be built on companionship and communication.
7. *1Pet 3:7.*
8. Overbusyness in ministry will seriously harm family and relationships.