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WALKING IN THE HOME

"I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart."
Psalm 101:2

Before We Begin...

The family and home are God's idea. In the coming weeks we will be examining what God's Word has to say regarding women as mothers, and as builders of their homes.

Regarding those who have not yet met Christ as their Savior:

Some of you may not yet know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. This Bible study will be beneficial because any time that God's principles are applied to our lives there will always be a positive result. However, we will never experience God's best in our homes until we meet Him personally in our own individual lives.

If you have not yet made the wonderful discovery of knowing Christ, please take time to carefully read the preceding page; "Becoming a Follower of Christ." Attempts to live the Christian life without having His power in our lives will end in frustration. If you want to experience the abundant life that the Lord has created you to enjoy, before you begin this Bible study, begin to follow Jesus.

Regarding those who do not have children:

Some taking this study may not have children. As we walk with the Lord, He will fulfill His purposes in our lives whether we are married or single, whether we have children or do not have children. Being in God's will is what matters, not our marital, or parental, status. Will the following studies dealing with "Walking in the Home" relate to women who do not have children? Absolutely!

God's Word verifies that some women are created by the Lord to remain single, and some marriages are specifically designed by the Lord to remain childless. God's plans are perfect, and He uses the lives of single women, and childless homemakers, to accomplish special purposes [Acts 18:2, 3, 26; Romans 16:3, 4; I Corinthians 16:19].

If you are currently childless, the following chapters will enable you to minister more effectively in the church, as you understand God's specific plans for your sisters in the Lord who have children. This study will help you to be a great encouragement to those mothers whom you know.

Regardless of whether or not you have children, regardless of your marital status, every woman has a home. In the following chapters we will examine what God has to say about a woman's attitudes, and actions, in the home.

As we study "Walking in the Home," open sharing and interaction among women from all walks of life will be essential and valuable. Regardless of our unique, personal circumstances, every woman is a precious creation; a treasure to God Himself [Psalm 83:3].

All of God's Word is for all of us. We need each other; ***so let's get started!***

Prayer Points:

**"Children, be obedient to your parents in all things,
for this is well-pleasing to the Lord."**
Colossians 3:20

A quiet, but powerful, revolution took place in homes across America during the last half of the twentieth century. A literal "coup" occurred as established patterns of authority were overturned around dinner tables and television sets.

As a result, most people of the "Baby Boomer" generation flinch somewhat at the very word "authority." A general attitude exists of distrust and disrespect for all positions of power. Unlike those of previous generations, people born after World War II have been programmed to challenge all legitimate use of authority.

In the **1950's** the "beatniks" spurned authority in their dress and lifestyle. Rock and rollers dressed and acted with the intent to shock and offend those in positions of traditional leadership.

The flower children of the **1960's** bloomed into "hippies" who demonstrated a total disrespect for authority. Their sit-ins on campuses, riots in the streets, and chants for "freedom" were targeted at the "establishment."

The **1970's** saw Watergate and the Vietnam War, which added fuel to the fires of hate and disregard for those in control. It was the era of "if it feels good, do it," regardless of what those in influential positions of power represented as being proper or right.

The **1980's** have been called the "me decade" or "Generation X." Is it any wonder that the newest popular magazine spawned during that era was called "Self"? "Do your own thing" and "watch out for number one" became the mantras of the masses.

The **1990's** bore the fruit of over four decades of egocentric American culture and public policy. Unprecedented public rioting, a breakdown in the justice system, and disregard for civil law increased. The spurning of authority, even at the highest levels, yielded the devastating consequences of the breakdown of morality across the nation.

The new millennium opened with a pure relativism permeating every facet of society. Having forsaken any absolute authority or



standards, the greatest “sin” of the new era is that of “intolerance” toward others’ floating standards.

This broad cultural revolution against traditional authority impacts individual homes and families.

Before tackling a discussion of “parental authority,” we must first determine what are our own prejudices and biases against the very concept of “authority.”

1. Do you have any feelings of hostility toward the principle of authority? Does the word make you cringe?
If so, why do you think that is?

The first two definitions of “authority” found in **Webster’s New World College Dictionary** are as follows:

- a) *the power or right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action, or make final decisions; jurisdiction, the position of one having such power (a person in authority)*
- b) *such power as delegated to another, authorization, warrant (he has my authority to do it)*

(Synonyms: influence, power)

At first glance authority looks like a very dangerous thing. There always have been those who abuse their position of leadership, yet the power of authority is not without controls or limits.

God has designed the rules and boundaries of authority and its use. He, Himself, is always in control of everything. He has the position and the power to enforce His will over all authorities.

What do the following Scriptures reveal about God’s authority?

2. Psalm 115:3

**Prayer
Points:**

3. I Chronicles 29:10-13

4. Daniel 4:35

5. Romans 13:1

God has established the institution of the parent as one of His ruling authorities on earth. To this position has been delegated both the right to rule children and all the power necessary to succeed in training children according to God's plan. Honoring a parent parallels the biblical picture of honoring God Himself [Malachi 1:6].

The parental position of authority is the direct agency through which children are to receive ruling during their childhood. That is, it is through this position that each child is to receive protection, direction and instruction.

Whomever the Lord places in the position of being a parent is accountable directly to God for how they rule. This position can be occupied by the natural parents, a remaining single parent, or by whomever else God has placed there (such as a relative, guardian, stepparent or orphanage.) Whoever occupies the position is held accountable by God as much as the natural parents would have been.

Parents must remember these principles:

- a) All life comes from God (Job 33:4).*
- b) God has given us our children as a gift (Psalm 127:3).*
- c) Our God-ordained position is to be honored by our children (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2).*



We have seen that there are consequences of either blessing or cursing for ourselves and our children if they honor, or dishonor, either their father or their mother.

6. Ephesians 6:2-4

- a) What are children commanded to do?
- b) What promise is given to children who fulfill the above command?
- c) What can fathers do to help the child honor the parents?
- d) Do you have any suggestions for a mother who sees her husband provoking the child to anger?

***Optional:** Using your concordance and expository dictionary, look up "obey" as used in Ephesians 6:2 and Colossians 3:20. What does the Greek word precisely mean?

7. Colossians 3:20

- a) What actions are required of the child?
- b) Is this similar to the concept of "submitting"? If not, how does it differ?