

# Basic Biblical Discipleship

Guidance for Growth in God's Word

## Lessons 17-19

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of  
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be  
glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

2 Peter 3:18

*Printed by:*

Cornerstone Bible Ministries

Mutare, Zimbabwe

+263 781 158 599

[gospelforzim@gmail.com](mailto:gospelforzim@gmail.com)

# Lesson Seventeen:

## The Home and Family

**As a Christian, what is my responsibility to my family?**

The home is the first institution that God established and it provides the foundation for every other institution. It has been said that the home is the place of practical Christianity. If a believer does not practice his faith with his family, he will not be a very good Christian. The idea behind this lesson is to give you a Biblical concept of the roles and relationships essential to a Christian home.

### **I. The Marriage Relationship**

At the heart of the home is the union between the husband and wife. Marriage is God's design and it is best enjoyed by following his plan (Genesis 2:21-24).

- A.** Marriage is between a man and a woman (Romans 1:26-27). This excludes homosexuality.
- B.** Marriage is intended to be between one man and one woman (Malachi 2:15). This excludes polygamy.
- C.** Marriage is God's boundary for sexual intimacy (Hebrews 13:4). This excludes immorality (1 Corinthians 6:15-18, Proverbs 6:32).
- D.** Marriage is intended by God to be permanent (Matthew 19:6-9). God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16).
- E.** God warns against an unequal yoke (2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 7:39). A believer should only marry another believer.

## **II. Responsibilities of the Husband**

The husband is to be the “head” of the home (Ephesians 5:23) and his relationship with his wife is likened to that of Jesus Christ’s to the church in Ephesians 5.

- A.** He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25, 28-29).
- B.** He is to sanctify and cleanse her with his words (Ephesians 5:26-27).
- C.** He is to avoid bitterness toward his wife (Colossians 3:19).
- D.** He is to dwell with her according to knowledge (1 Peter 3:7).
- E.** He is to honour his wife (1 Peter 3:7).
- F.** He is to be a spiritual leader for his wife and his children praying with the family and teaching them God’s word (1 Peter 3:7, 1 Corinthians 14:35).

## **III. Responsibilities of the Wife**

- A.** She is to be in subjection to her husband (1 Peter 3:1, 5, Ephesians 5:24). This does not mean that the wife is of lesser value, it simply means that she voluntarily takes a place in the home under the authority of her husband. Christ was equal to God, but submitted Himself to the Father’s will for the good of the human race (1 Corinthians 11:3, 11).
- B.** She is to reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:33).

- C. She is to have a meek and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4). This kind of spirit will accomplish much more than trying to fix her husband with her speech (which he perceives as “nagging”).
- D. She is to be chaste (1 Peter 3:2, Titus 2:5).
- E. She is to be a keeper at home (Titus 2:5).
- F. She is to be obedient to her husband (Titus 2:5).
- G. She is to love her husband and children (Titus 2:4).

#### **IV. Responsibilities of the Parents**

- A. They are to train up their children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).
- B. They are to restrain their children (1 Samuel 3:13).
- C. They are to correct their children through chastisement and instruction (Proverbs 19:18, 23:13-14, 29:15, 17).
- D. They are to teach them the word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Psalm 78:4-7, Ephesians 6:4).
- E. They are not to provoke them to wrath and anger (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21).
- F. They are to provide for them (1 Timothy 5:8, 2 Corinthians 12:14).

#### **V. Responsibilities of the Children**

- A. They are to listen to their parents (Proverbs 1:8, 2:1, 4:1).

- B.** They are to obey them (Ephesians 6:1).
- C.** They are to honour them (Ephesians 6:2).
- D.** They are not to be stubborn or rebellious (Deuteronomy 21:18-21).
- E.** They are to see that their needs are met in their old age (1 Timothy 5:4, John 19:26-27, Proverbs 23:22).

# Lesson Seventeen Questions

1. In what way is the institution of the home foundational to the institution of the government or the church?
2. What is God's attitude toward divorce? Provide scriptural support.
3. To whom is the husband compared in Ephesians 5? What are some ways in which he fulfills this role?
4. What does it mean for a woman to put herself in submission to her husband? Does this mean she is somehow of lesser value or intelligence?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Seventeen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

### For Husbands:

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;* Ephesians 5:25

### For Wives:

*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.* Ephesians 5:22

### For Parents:

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* Proverbs 22:6

### For Children:

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.* Ephesians 6:1-3

# Lesson Eighteen:

## Money and Possessions

**What should be my attitude toward handling money and giving to God?**

Ever since the early church, one of the greatest temptations facing believers pertains to our attitude toward money. While you can't always *see* the sins of greed, covetousness, and materialism, these sins represent a great threat to our spiritual health. A proper heart-attitude toward the Lord will extend to our finances. The purpose of this lesson is to show you what your attitude should be toward managing money and giving to God.

### **I. The Issue Isn't Really Money**

Money is an inanimate object. Just like with the misuse of a gun or knife, the problem with money is not really with the object itself, but with its improper use.

**A.** The *love* of money is the root of all evil, not money itself (1 Timothy 6:10). Money can be a useful tool or it can be the means of our destruction. The difference has to do with our attitude toward it.

**B.** Spirituality is never determined by a lack or an abundance of money. God blessed and used both the rich (like Job, Joseph of Arimathea, and Barnabas) and the poor (like Mary and Joseph, and Jesus Christ). It is not your financial wealth that makes you useful to the Lord.

### **II. You Must Not Let Money Become Your Focus**

Never let money get between you and the Lord. This includes an abundance or a lack of money.



- A. Your trust should be in God, not in wealth or possessions (Mark 10:23-27, Proverbs 11:4, 28).
- B. Keep your attention and affections on heavenly things (Matthew 6:19-21, Colossians 3:1-4).
- C. Never judge a person's spirituality by their material possessions (Luke 12:15).
- D. Your objective in life should never be to get rich (Proverbs 23:4, 1 Timothy 6:9).
- E. Keep in mind that there are many things that money cannot buy (Proverbs 15:16, 16:8, 16, 17:1, 28:6).

### **III. Avoid Covetousness and Aim for Contentment**

Jesus Christ provides His people with contentment regardless of what their financial standing is (Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:11, 1 Timothy 6:6).

- A. Don't forget about God if he blesses you financially (Deuteronomy 6:10-12, Proverbs 30:7-9).
- B. If God took all of your wealth away, it should not change your attitude toward Him (Job 1:20-22).
- C. Keep a balance in your attitude toward money.
  - 1. You should not worry over money (Matthew 6:24-25), but you must work for a living to provide for your family (1 Timothy 5:8).

2. You should not be covetous of riches (1 Timothy 6:9), but you should seek to earn a fair wage (1 Timothy 5:18).
3. You should not hoard away your money (Matthew 6:19-20), but you should prepare for your family's future (2 Corinthians 12:14).

#### **IV. You Should Give of your Resources to the Lord's Work**

If we keep in mind that our money is a tool, then it should be a tool that we make available for the Lord's use. This is a very natural exercise if we ourselves are surrendered to the Lord (Romans 12:1, 2 Corinthians 8:5).

- A. Giving financially to the Lord expresses love to God and gratitude for Christ's sacrifice (2 Corinthians 8:8-9, 24).
- B. Giving to God cultivates grace in our hearts and shows our dependency on the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:8).
- C. Giving financially to the work of the Lord allows you to invest in things of eternal consequence (Philippians 4:17, Matthew 6:19-21).

#### **V. Giving Should Follow Certain New Testament Principles**

- A. You should give with the right attitude and motives (2 Corinthians 9:7, Acts 20:35).
- B. Your giving should be regular, proportional, and centered around your local church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

1. Giving a tithe, or a tenth, of our income through our local church is a good way to develop the discipline of giving (Genesis 14:20).

## **VI. Giving Meets Important Biblical Needs**

- A. It helps to support those that minister the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:11-14, 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- B. It helps to support missions and evangelism (Philippians 4:15-19).
- C. It helps to support those in need within the congregation (Acts 6:1, 1 Timothy 5:9-10, 16).

# Lesson Eighteen Questions

1. In what way can money have a negative impact on you spiritually?
2. What does the Lord Jesus Christ offer to His people, regardless of their financial standing?
3. What are some of the spiritual benefits to giving to the Lord's work?
4. Around what does New Testament giving center?
5. What are some Biblical needs that are met by your giving through the local church?

# Memory Verses for Lesson Eighteen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.* Philippians 4:11

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:* Matthew 6:19-20

*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.* 2 Corinthians 9:7

# Lesson Nineteen:

## Work and Employment

### What should be my attitude toward working for a living?

God gave Adam a work to do before the entrance of sin (Genesis 2:15). Ever since the creation, work has been an important part of man's existence on earth. We should seek to honor the Lord in the work we perform throughout the week just as much as in our public worship. The Bible has plenty to say about the believer's relationship to his work, including those he works for and those who may work for him. This lesson is designed to help you form a Biblical attitude toward your job and your employer (or employees).

#### I. Christianity is "Full-Time"

Every believer is called to be a full-time Christian (Ephesians 4:1). Ministry is not for a select few, but for every child of God (Ephesians 4:12). Our occupation (the way we make money - Acts 18:3) should not prevent us from ministering to others, but facilitate our ministry.

- A. The purpose of your occupation is to "support" your ministry at home (1 Timothy 5:8), at church (Galatians 6:10), and to the world (2 Corinthians 5:18).
- B. Having a good work ethic is an important part of our Christian testimony (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).
  - 1. Through hard work, we should seek to "have need of nothing" - enough to provide for our family and be a blessing to others.

2. Our work should be honest and upright, without deceit (Ephesians 4:28, Proverbs 11:1, 3, 21:6). Beware of schemes that promise big profits with little effort (Proverbs 28:20, 22, 14:23).

C. Sometimes our work brings us into contact with people who are unsaved. This is a good opportunity to be a witness for Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15-16, 2 Corinthians 3:2, 1 Peter 3:15).

## **II. Seek to Be a Good Employee by the Bible's Standards**

If you work for someone else, you should seek to display a Biblical attitude toward your employer and fellow employees.

A. Recognize that you ultimately answer to Jesus Christ. Therefore you should seek to serve Christ as if He were your employer (Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24).

B. Show respect for authority by being submissive and compliant toward your supervisors (Titus 2:9).

C. Do an honest day's work (Titus 2:10, 2 Corinthians 8:21).

D. Concentrate on the job you were hired to do and do not be hindered or distracted by other employees (1 Thessalonians 4:11).

E. Be diligent and seek the success of your employer (Romans 12:11, 1 Corinthians 10:24). Consider the life of Joseph as an example.

### **III. Seek to Be a Good Employer by the Bible's Standards**

If you manage or employ other workers, you are still answerable to Jesus Christ. As a supervisor, you have a great opportunity to influence others positively for the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A.** Treat your employees justly and equally, paying a reasonable wage (Colossians 4:1).
- B.** Do not threaten or speak hatefully to your employees (Ephesians 6:9).
- C.** Maintain the attitude of a servant, even in a position of leadership (1 Corinthians 9:19, 10:33).

### **IV. Dealing with Persecution and Temptation on the Job**

- A.** As a Christian, you should not be surprised when you encounter persecution (2 Tim 3:12).
- B.** Keep in mind that many times persecution is caused by ignorance or hypocrisy (1 Peter 3:16-17). While you should seek for opportunities to witness you must avoid being rude or pushy (Matthew 10:16).
- C.** You must guard yourself against temptation on the job. It is very easy to be drawn into unholy conversation or activity as you try to live peaceably with your co-workers. You must guard your heart and your testimony (Romans 13:14, Proverbs 14:9).



## **V. Prayerfully Seek the Lord When Facing a Change of Occupation**

Be aware that where you work, who you work for, and what kind of work you do will have a serious impact on your family and even your church. Be sure that the Lord directs this important decision.

- A.** Be certain that you are dependent on the Lord's guidance and wisdom in the matter (James 1:5).
  
- B.** Ask yourself how a new job or a move will affect your service to the Lord Jesus Christ and your relationship to your church. This can be a very complex issue. Seek wise counsel before making a big change.

# Lesson Nineteen Questions

1. According to God's word, what is your vocation? Provide scripture.
2. How does your employment "support" your ministries?
3. To whom is every Christian employer and employee ultimately responsible? How should this affect our work ethic?
4. What are some Biblical marks of a good employee?
5. What are some Biblical marks of a good employer?
6. What are some common ways believers damage the cause of Christ on the job?

# Memory Verses for Lesson Nineteen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

*No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

2 Timothy 2:4

*Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.* Proverbs 14:9

*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;* Colossians 3:23