



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A STRONG FAMILY



THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE

Psalm 127:1-5- *“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.”*

Matthew 7:24-27- *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

I. WAYS WE LABOR IN VAIN

1. Building my house in my own strength. (Implementing all the right standards, techniques and formulas without God being in it.)

- **Paul**-“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, **I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me**” (1 Corinthians 15:10).
- **Jesus**-“Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing**” (John 15:3-5).

2. Leaning on Our Own Understanding

- Proverbs 3:1-8-“My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **do not lean on your own understanding**. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. **Building my house with my own reasoning.**”

3. Building by Myself (Believing “It’s All Up to Me”)

- Proverbs 18:1, 2-“**Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.** A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.”
- Women-“The wisest of women builds her house, but folly **with her own hands tears it down**” (Proverbs 14:1).
- Men-“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and **in abundance of counselors there is victory**” (Proverbs 24:3-6).

4. Being Driven by Consistent and Unconsidered Activity (Busyness)

- Luke 10:38-42-“Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called **Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving.** And she went up to him and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.’ But the Lord answered her, ‘**Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.**’”

Satan’s Goal

- To run you hard and wear you down, making you vulnerable to temptation.

Dangers of Being Too Busy

- Little or no time for intimacy with God
- Not enough time to nurture heart-to-heart relationships
- Not enough time to address conflicts and problems that impact the heart of those in the family (A GET-OVER-IT mentality, leaving people not being understood.)

- Not enough individual time for children to experience being the “beloved son or daughter”
- Too much multi-tasking (Note: You can only pay attention to one person at a time.)
- Not enough time for Family Worship and prayer times together

“The Problem Is Not Prioritizing Your Schedule; It Is Scheduling Your Priorities”

There are a lot of good things to be involved in, but we must choose the excellent things, the “good portion.”

II. THREE PILLARS IN BUILDING THE FAMILY

1. Biblical Headship (father as shepherd and warrior)

- Ephesians 5:23 The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior”
- Malachi 4:6 A father’s heart must be turned toward his children. “And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and **strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.**” Dad must refocus his energy and must get real with what is important.

Satan’s Goal

- To get the father’s heart focused on something else so he will abdicate his responsibilities in the family and marriage.

“If a father abdicates his God-given responsibilities as leader of his home, he makes his family vulnerable to ungodly influence and Satan will gain the advantage.”

2. Marriage Oneness

- Genesis 2:24-“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Satan’s Goal

- To destroy your fellowship, friendship, and the romance in your marriage.

3. Taking the Responsibility of the Discipleship of Your Children

- Deuteronomy 6:1-9-“**Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son**, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **You shall love the LORD**

your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

- Children are a blessing from the Lord (Psalm 127:5)
- God has called you to a MULTI-GENERATIONAL VISION for your family.
- To impact your children’s lives, you have to make them part of your world and enter into their world to disciple them.

Satan’s Goal

- To cut off heart-to-heart communication with your children.

III. WHAT IS OUR PART IN THE BUILDING PROCESS?

- Guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23).
- Love the Lord wholeheartedly (Deuteronomy 6:5).
- Hear from God and do what He says (Matthew 7:24).
- Bear the burdens He wants you to bear (Matthew 11:28-30).

PERSONAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. What is the life you want to live?
2. Does your heart desire to be with your spouse and children?
3. How much down time do you have in a day?
Do you spend it building relationships?
4. Whose yoke are you bearing?
5. Are you bearing burdens the Lord does not want you to bear?
6. Who or what do you need to turn down to choose a more excellent way?
7. Do you block out time in your schedule for important relationships?
8. Is your heart in a good condition to understand others?
9. What has God been saying to you lately? What is He doing in your life?

