

God's Blueprint For The Home

Lesson 1: God Has A Blueprint For The Home



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

God's Blueprint For The Home

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Learn that God created the home, that He created the home for a specific purpose, and that He has given a perfect blueprint to govern the home

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Lesson 1: God Has A Blueprint For The Home

The “home” is nearly as old as mankind. The “home” is a vitally important part of society as a whole and is extremely impactful on each and every person who is living on this earth – either for the good or for the bad. Therefore, we have a great need to evaluate the kinds of homes we are building to see how we can build homes that have the most positive impact possible!

By “home” I simply mean the family. I do *not* mean a physical house that a person or family lives in. For, there are many people who have terrific houses but have terrible homes. And, there are many people who have inferior houses but have superior homes. So, the success or failure in one has no correlation to the other.

Many homes have failed because the members of the family have not attempted to build according to God's blueprint for the home. And, the consequences of this failure are wide-reaching. Every member of the home is negatively impacted by a home that is not built according to God's blueprint.

In contrast, every member of a home that is built according to God's blueprint is positively impacted. The benefits of this home are also wide-

reaching. However, there are few homes that have been built according to this blueprint.

Therefore, it is essential for us to look to the Architect of the home. As I will attempt to demonstrate throughout this lesson, God is the one who has designed the home perfectly. He is the one who has created it exactly how He intended and He is the one who has authority over it. Now, if we will just build according to His perfect blueprint, we can have homes that fulfill their true purpose and have the greatest impact on the world possible.

God Created The Home

God is the Creator and Designer of everything that is necessary for the home. He has created mankind and He has created marriage. Therefore, He is the only one who has the full authority over the home to regulate how it ought to function.

God created man

There could be no home if there were no people. So, we must go back in the Biblical record to the time of the creation. Genesis 1:26-27 says, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis chapter 2 helps to understand, specifically, how God created man on the sixth day of creation. Verse 7 says, “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

So, the first piece of a home is in place. God has created man. But, a single man is not a home by himself. In fact, after God created this man, He saw that it was not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18). Therefore, God created the second necessary piece of a home.

God created woman

Once again, Genesis 1:27 says that God created “male and female” on the sixth day of creation. Now, there can be no doubt that God created the woman *after* He created the man. But, it was still on this same day.

After God had made man from the dust of the ground, He proceeded to make woman. Genesis 2:21-23 says, “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.’”

Now, we have two individual pieces for a home: A man and a woman. But, as long as they are separate, they do not make a home. There must be something else involved. And, the answer is found in this same text.

God joined them together in marriage

Notice the text very carefully. After God created the woman from Adam’s rib, the Lord God “brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:22). In doing so, God performed the very first marriage and joined Adam and Eve together.

Genesis 2:24 states, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” They were not just two people who had *some* kind of relationship with one another in the Garden of Eden. Instead, they shared the closest of all earthly relationships as husband and wife.

Notice that God joined the two of them together and they became “one flesh.” Jesus would use this language in His own teaching on marriage in Matthew 19. He said that they were “no longer two but one flesh” and instructed, “what God has joined together, let not man separate” (verse 6).

Although they were still two separate people, God said that they were “one” in the sense of being united. They were not to live independent lives from one another. Instead, they were partners in life.

Subsequent verses continue to refer to Adam and Eve as being husband and wife. Whenever the serpent tempted Eve regarding the forbidden fruit in the garden, the woman “also gave to her husband” (Genesis 3:6). When God was identifying the consequences for sinning against Him, He told the woman that her desire would be for her “husband” (Genesis 3:16). When God began to speak to Adam about the consequences of sinning, He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you...” (Genesis 3:17). Then, “Adam called his wife’s name Eve” (Genesis 3:20). Genesis 4:1 says that “Adam knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain.” And, “Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth” (Genesis 4:25).

So, this was the very first home in the history of mankind – and God was its Designer (Architect). By the end of Genesis chapter four, we can see this home is composed of a husband, wife, and children. Although homes can exist even though a spouse dies or leaves the home, when adoption takes place, etc., we must recognize that this *traditional* style of home is exactly what God designed!

God has full authority over the home

As the Creator and Architect of the home, God is the one who has authority over the home. You see, in order for anyone to have *authority*, he/she must possess the power to control and the right to control a thing. Acts 17:24 says that God made the world and everything in it because He is “Lord of heaven and earth.” As the great Creator of the heavens and the earth and all things in them (including mankind and the home), He is the *only* one who has the full power to control and right to control the home.

Furthermore, as Judge of the world, God also will be the one who determines whether individuals fulfilled their roles in the home according to the blueprint He has given. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says that we “must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” Certainly, this includes whether our lives meet His standard for how we must conduct ourselves in the home He has created and designed.

Therefore, whenever Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18), it applies to the home. There is nothing that is exempt from the complete authority of God and Jesus Christ, including the home. So, God is the one who has the authority to structure and regulate the home however He desires.

The Bible teaches us all about the blueprint God has for the home He created and designed. Our responsibility is simply to build according to this pattern. 2 Timothy 1:13 instructs Christians to “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.” Thus, this blueprint for the home that we can read about throughout the pages of the Bible is completely pure and right to lead us in the way that pleases God.

As a matter of application, this all means that it is only God who can define the duration of marriage. He is the only one who can tell us who is involved in a marriage that pleases Him. He is the only one who can rightly define the roles of husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and children. And, He is the only one who can perfectly teach us how we should raise our children.

God Created The Home For A Purpose

God created man and woman on the sixth day of creation. This was the zenith of His physical creation, as He created mankind in a very special kind of way. So, it is reasonable to consider *why* God saw fit to create the home rather than just creating the man and woman and leaving them separate so that they could figure out the rest.

The necessity of the home

I do not know how many minutes or hours passed between the time God created the man and the woman. But, I do know that in between the record of God creating the man in Genesis 2:7 and the record of God creating the woman in Genesis 2:21-23, a problem was observed.

As God created all things, He saw that everything He had created was good. However, Genesis 2:18 states, “And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’” This is the first statement of anything not being good. And, even then, the problem was not with what God had created. It was what He had *not* created.

In Genesis 2:19-20, we read more about this problem that God observed. All of the animals that had been created were brought to Adam to see what he would call them. As the animals came before him, he gave them names. But, in all of these, “there was not found a helper comparable to him.”

There was nothing else of a similar *nature* as himself. Not only did nothing else resemble him physically, but they were all missing the spiritual element to their existence that God created mankind with. Recall that Genesis 1:27 says, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Yet, when God brought the woman to the man, the man recognized that she was bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh (Genesis 2:23). He could see the resemblance! Then, God joined them together in marriage.

Now, take a moment to consider what God could have done to rectify this problem. He *could* have created another man. He *could* have created woman, but not join the two of them together in marriage. He *could* have created multiple women for the man. As the Creator of the universe, He *could* have done many things (even more than we could imagine). But, the fact that He did this *one* thing teaches us a great deal about the purpose of the home and how God desires for it to be arranged.

Physical purpose of the home

Man is a dual-natured being. He is physical and he is spiritual. Both of these natures have needs that must be fulfilled. And, it is largely through these needs that we can understand the purpose for which God has created the home.

Physically, man is a social creature and needs some form of companionship. So, one reason that God created the home is to provide for this need of a

companion to help him through life on this earth. And, although companions can be found in others, the physical relationships that are formed in the home provide the closest of all human relationships (especially between husband and wife).

Just think about Adam while he was naming all of the animals God had created. Whenever he saw that there was nothing else like him on the face of this earth, don't you think he probably felt lonely? So, God created a woman and joined her in marriage to him, as a "helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18). Now, they shared such a close relationship on this earth that it can be described as two becoming "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

They were the closest of partners who were to work together to take on the challenges of life. For, as Solomon observed, "Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Although Solomon was talking here about the general benefit of companionship, there is no greater application than having a life-long companion in a husband or wife! Now, neither one is alone in facing the struggles of life. There is a companion who is interested in your wellbeing. There is someone who is able to help you with the decisions that you face. There is someone who wants to help you succeed in living life on this earth!

A second physical purpose for the home is the fulfillment of sexual desires. Since mankind is a physical being, men and women have sexual desires. These desires are part of who God has created us to be. But, in creating mankind with these desires, He has also specified how these desires are to be used appropriately.

This is part of husband and wife being "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). They share in fulfilling these desires for one another. In fact, this is the *only* God-approved means of fulfilling sexual desires.

Whenever these desires are fulfilled in a God-approved marriage, it is a pure and wonderful thing.

Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." Both the terms "fornicators" and "adulterers" have reference to those who do not fulfill their sexual desires in a God-approved marriage. Instead, they fulfill these desires outside of such a marriage. God will judge these people and they will be condemned to an eternity in Hell, according to Galatians 5:19-21 and Revelation 21:8.

So, it is a serious matter that pertains to your eternal salvation that you *only* fulfill these desires in a God-approved marriage! Therefore, God has said, "because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (1 Corinthians 7:2-5).

Finally, a third physical purpose of the home is to have and raise children. In God's creation of all living things, He saw to it that they would be able to reproduce after their own kind. For instance, on day three, God created grass, herb, and fruit tree that all produced seed according to its kind (Genesis 1:11-13). On day five, God created the sea animals and birds and told them to be "fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth" (Genesis 1:20-23).

In the same way, when God created the man and woman on day six, He blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28). This one-flesh relationship (and only this relationship) that the husband and wife have with each other is intended and designed by

God to produce children so that the world is populated.

Although children can (and often do) result from relationships outside of marriage, God has only authorized for children to be conceived in a home that consists of a husband and wife God has joined together. And, whenever these children are born, they are great blessings, as well as tremendous responsibilities and opportunities.

Psalms 127:3-5 says, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.”

But, merely having these children is not all that God requires of parents. Instead, parents are expected to care for their children as they grow and train their children in the way they ought to live their lives on this earth. This involves nurturing care, instruction, and discipline. Proverbs 22:6 instructs, “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Spiritual purpose of the home

Since mankind is a dual-natured being, it would be a grave mistake to view the purpose of marriage and the home only by considering the *physical* purpose. Instead, since mankind is also a spiritual being who has been created in the image of God, we must also understand how the home works to fulfill man’s spiritual purpose.

To understand this point, we must first consider the purpose of every member of the family in light of their spiritual existence. Since we all possess souls that survive our physical deaths and that will exist throughout eternity, either in Heaven or in Hell, we must consider that the purpose of our lives on this earth is to live in a way that will please God so that we can all spend eternity in Heaven!

Solomon concluded his search for the true meaning of life by saying, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every

secret thing, Whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

In light of the judgment that all members of the family will face one Day when we all stand before Jesus Christ, the most important of all purposes of the home is to help each member of the family accomplish the purpose of fearing God and keeping His commandments! You see, not only is the home a place for physical companionship, but it is a place for spiritual companionship. For, the problem that Adam faced prior to the creation of the woman was not just that he could not find someone who *looked* similar to him, but that there was also no one who shared the spiritual element of his existence.

In fact, the greatest companionship that husbands and wives can provide for one another is to help each other make the decisions and take the actions that are pleasing to God and will result in each one spending eternity in Heaven! A great example of this is seen in Aquila and Priscilla (see Acts 18 and Romans 16:3-5). This husband and wife team worked together to help the apostle Paul, to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to allow a local church to meet in their home. 1 Peter 3:1-6 even gives instructions to Christian women to conduct their lives in such a way that they can win their unbelieving husbands to the Lord.

Then, the greatest responsibility parents and children have toward one another is to help each other live in a way that pleases God and will result in everlasting life in Heaven. This is especially true concerning the need for parents to train each of their children “in the way he should go” so that he will not depart from this way whenever he is older (Proverbs 22:6). Namely, the way each child should go is the Lord’s way, the straight and narrow road that leads to everlasting life in Heaven (Matthew 7:13-14)!

So, fathers are instructed to bring up their children “in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Even mothers can have a crucial role in this work. For instance, it was Timothy’s mother and grandmother who worked diligently to teach him the ways of God (2 Timothy 1:5). You see, our children are one of the greatest opportunities for us to pass along the truth of God’s word in a way that it will impact future generations, so that our children

teach our grandchildren, who teach their children, who teach their children, etc. – all while each one is also trying to teach others outside of the family (2 Timothy 2:2)!

God's Blueprint Is Perfect

God created the home exactly as He intended to create it. There is nothing lacking in God's design and there is nothing that needs improvement or revision. The only question is whether you will follow God's perfect blueprint that is contained in the pages of the Bible whenever you build your home.

He made no mistakes

God makes no mistakes. His nature is such that He is all-powerful and all-knowing. So, He cannot make mistakes. He can only create everything exactly how He desires for it to be created. This means that God made no mistakes whenever He created and designed the home.

Just as God's word is perfect in everything, it is perfect when it reveals the blueprint for the home. Psalm 19:7-9 says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." And, James 1:25 refers to God's law as "the perfect law of liberty."

God did not forget to tell us anything about the home that we need to know. Instead, every element of the faith has been once for all delivered to us through the writings of the Scriptures (Jude 1:3). 2 Timothy 3:16-17 simply states, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." Similarly, 2 Peter 1:3 says that God's "divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness."

Therefore, everything you need to know about having a home that meets God's approval is found in the pages of God's inspired word. You do not need years of experience to know how you ought to build your home. You do not need to read the advice of so-called "marriage experts" or "child-care specialists." You simply need to search the Scriptures and build according to the blueprint that God has revealed! If you will follow this blueprint to the best of your ability, you will be pleasing to God in your role in the home.

He designed marriage perfectly

God has written the perfect book on marriage. No other book or advice given by men results in having a better marriage than what God has designed and revealed in the pages of Scripture!

God's blueprint for marriage is a very simple one (and we will go into it in greater detail in lesson 3 of this study). His marriage law states that marriage is only a union for a man and a woman. Then, He states that these two are joined together for life. And, the only acceptable cause for divorce is fornication (Matthew 5:31-32). Only then can the one who is innocent of the fornication put away his/her spouse and marry another (who also has the right to marry).

He designed the roles in the home perfectly

Not only has God created the perfect laws to govern marriage, but He has also assigned the perfect roles to help the home function as it should. Remember that God is the one who has complete authority over the home and knows what is best for the home to function according to its design. So, He has the right to assign roles and give authority in the home to whomever He chooses.

His word (which reveals His blueprint for the home) describes the roles He has given to husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, and children. These roles include the husband as head of the home, the wife being in submission to her husband, and children who must obey their parents. Then, God's blueprint teaches parents everything they need to know about raising their children in a way that pleases Him.

Every attempt to change the home fails

Over the years, Satan has tried to attack the home – and for good reason! He recognizes that the home is very important to the success of people who want to serve God. And, it is a crucial element in any civil society. So, if he can destroy the home, he can do a lot to hinder people from serving God.

Therefore, since the beginning of the home, Satan has sought ways to destroy it. He has introduced hatred to the home as early as Genesis 4 when Cain killed Abel. He has introduced polygamy to the home as early as Genesis 4:19 when Lamech took two wives for himself. And, he has introduced homosexuality to the home as early as Genesis 18-19 when God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for practicing such wickedness.

But, these have not been the only changes mankind has tried to make to God's blueprint. Some have tried making women the heads and providers of the home and men the keepers of the home. Some have allowed their children to have free reign in the home. Some have failed to practice honesty, faithfulness, trust, kindness, etc. Some have failed to love in the way God wants people to love in the home. In fact, Satan has made far too many distortions to God's blueprint for the home than I can possibly list!

Yet, even though we see homes all around us that are being built according to one of Satan's many blueprints, we should reject all of these models and recognize that they all fail to reproduce a home that is pleasing to God! In fact, we *must* reject all of these models because they will lead to our spiritual ruin. Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it..."

God has warned us about changing a single word of His perfect blueprint. Revelation 22:18-19 says, "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." This warning is just as applicable to

changes made to the blueprint on the home as it is to changes made in any other area!

Mankind must follow the blueprint

The greatest single piece of advice that anyone could ever give to another person on the subject of the home is found in James 4:7. It states, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

There are many ways that Satan will tempt all of the members of the family and try to get them not to follow the Lord and build according to His blueprint. There will be pressure from the families who are around your family. There will be pressure through popular culture. There will be pressure from academia. There will be pressure from the "experts." There may even be pressure internally.

However, if you simply determine to submit your ideas, desires, and actions entirely to God's will, He will cause you to be successful in the home! You must determine that God's way is always the best way and choose to build according to His blueprint. When you do, the benefits will be wide-reaching and fulfilling. But, when you do not, the consequences will be devastating!

Conclusion

God has a blueprint for your home! His blueprint is the only one that is perfect. Every other blueprint fails in some area or in multiple areas. Therefore, you have a choice to make as you consider the kind of home you will build: Will you build according to the perfect blueprint? This series of lessons will be dedicated to evaluating this blueprint and helping you apply it to your life and your home so that you and your home will be pleasing to God!

Study Questions

What is the spiritual purpose for the home?

How is the word “home” being used in this study?

1. God Created The Home

How did God create man?

How did God create woman?

What did God do to them?

Why does God have authority over the home? Why is God’s authority over the home important?

2. God Created The Home For A Purpose

Why was the home necessary?

What is the physical purpose for the home?

3. God’s Blueprint Is Perfect

Has God made any mistakes in creating and designing the home?

How has God perfectly designed marriage?

How has God perfectly designed the roles in the home?

Why does every attempt to change the home fail?

What is the single greatest piece of advice that can be given on the subject of the home?